

Disney FILES

MAGAZINE

SPRING 2009 ♣ VOL. 18 NO. 1



MEMBERS ONLY

Mickey Mouse and Minnie Mouse, honorary Disney Vacation Club Members since 1991, walk the beach near the site of the new Disney Resort development in Hawai'i.

Disney

FILES MAGAZINE



Illustration by Keelan Parham

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

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DVC-MBR-65-F

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

Never before have I abused the power of the pen for personal gain. Strong in my editorial convictions, I've taken the high road past self-fulfilling temptation, never pulling over to push my own agenda. But now our company is building a resort in Hawai'i (pages 2-6) and, frankly, I want to go. So if you'll excuse my ethical detour, I present this edition's key stories with a little "strategic flattery" along the way.

It all starts on page 2, where Disney Vacation Club President Jim Lewis (both a gentleman and a scholar) shares new details about the Hawai'i project and highlights enhancements to our Member Getaways program.

Page 7 features brilliant Imagineer John Mauro's perspectives about our first resort project in California, while page 8 takes you behind the scenes of ABC's "America's Funniest Home Videos," a show that, thanks to my leaders' impressive approach to relationship-building, is once again featuring a grand prize from Disney Vacation Club.

That same networking brilliance (there's so much I can learn from these remarkable human beings) led to some cool new Member perks, which you'll read about on pages 9-10.

Moving beyond the picket fence, page 17 looks at a fun transformation of the Sun Wheel at *Disney's California Adventure*® Park. (Speaking of fun, you should really meet our Human Resources team. What a hoot.)

Page 18 previews the *Epcot*® International Flower & Garden Festival (not since I attended a Disney Vacation Club Steering Committee meeting have I seen such breathtaking beauty) and Disney's California Food & Wine Festival, where you'll find some of the tastiest dishes in the Golden State (perhaps not as incredible as my boss's cooking, but great nonetheless).

Meanwhile, our "More to Report" roundup (pages 21-22) covers everything from mysterious appearances of the No. 23 to the long-awaited re-appearance of some iconic singing dolls in Anaheim. (It may be the most thorough report I've seen since our executives outlined their five-year business plan.)

I'd take you through the rest of the issue, but I need to respond to an e-mail from one of the many awe-inspiring (and noticeably pleasant smelling) professionals in our Corporate Travel Department. (I'd better start packing!)

Aloha,

Ryan March
Disney Files Editor



↑ Karma or coincidence? Before I even finished the layout, they sent me to Hawai'i to work the ground-blessing event! Don't I look important with my fancy radio-communicator thingy? (I'm pretty sure that's what it's called.)

FROM THE DESK OF JIM LEWIS

top news & perspectives

by Jim Lewis, President, Disney Vacation Club

NEW HAWAIIAN RESORT DETAILS REVEALED

In October 2007, The Walt Disney Company announced its purchase of 21 acres of pristine oceanfront property on the west side of the Hawaiian island of O'ahu and revealed that Disney Vacation Club would be part of the plans for the mixed-use resort on that site.

Those plans took an important step forward with a traditional ground blessing ceremony at the resort site, marking the official start of development for what promises to be a truly spectacular destination.

With construction activity now underway, I am pleased to share a few new details about the project, which will continue to evolve as we work toward our targeted opening date in 2011.

Plans call for the resort to feature 350 traditional hotel rooms



and 480 Disney Vacation Club villas, along with an 18,000-square-foot spa, a children's club, a picturesque wedding lawn, two restaurants and an elaborate pool and water-play area, where family friendly tube and body slides will weave

through volcanic rockwork and engage an iconic caldera volcano.

Designs for the resort's open-air lobby building – dubbed Hale Aloha – draw inspiration from a traditional Hawaiian canoe house, with window designs, wall graphics and other details welcoming families with tales of adventure, myth and legend. Twin streams, conceived by Imagineers as symbolizing the dual energy of life and nature, will flow through the building before uniting as a single cascade into the center garden below.

You'll read more about the property's unique island setting and the recent ground blessing event in this edition of *Disney Files Magazine*. All of us at Disney Vacation Club are excited to be part of this amazing new endeavor, and we'll continue to share new details as they become available.

This elaborate scale model represents the proposed design for the new Disney resort development in Hawai'i.



Disney Vacation Club President Jim Lewis examines the Ko Olina Resort & Marina site plan.

A WHOLE NEW WORLD OF MEMBER GETAWAYS

By now, you've likely heard the good news about enhancements to our Member Getaways program, but in case you haven't, I'd like to share a few highlights here.

Earlier this year, we began a new relationship with *RCI*®, the world's leading expert in exchange vacations. The move allows us to continue offering more than 500 destinations across six continents and 25 countries through the magic of Membership, while giving you a broader range of resort experiences, length-of-stay options and more. The new menu of exchanges, for example, includes 32 resorts with all-inclusive food-and-beverage options (up from the seven previously available options), more nightly exchanges and even a luxurious selection of high-end fractional properties.

From urban hotspots and ski hideaways to golf resorts and

beach retreats, the enhanced World Passport Collection continues to feature popular exchange resorts and destinations, while offering an unprecedented level of experiential diversity.

Our Member Services team is now booking these new exchange reservations through *RCI*. Members who booked exchanges prior to the start of our relationship with *RCI* will be happy to know that all previously booked exchanges for 2009 will be honored.

Learn more about the new options online at www.dvcmember.com, and be sure to look for your new *Vacation Planner* in the mail later this spring.

We hope you enjoy this whole new world of vacation possibilities!

ALOHA STATE OF MIND

Work continues on new mixed-use Disney Resort

Magic meets Aloha in 2011, when an expansive Disney Resort is scheduled to open on 21 acres of oceanfront property at the picturesque Ko Olina Resort & Marina on the western side of the Hawaiian island of O'ahu.

Plans call for the mixed-use, family-focused resort to include 350 traditional hotel rooms and 480 Disney Vacation Club villas.

Since the October 2007 announcement, Walt Disney Imagineers have been in Hawai'i (tough gig), working with local architects and cultural experts as part of their creative design process.

While designs are preliminary, an early peek at the paperwork reveals plans for an extensive water play area including waterslides, rapids and waterfalls; a spa, conference center and kids' club; as well as a wedding lawn with a serene view of the Pacific's endless horizon.

About Ko Olina

The word Ko Olina means "place of joy," a fact that made the *Disney Files* staff smile and prompted us to look into the meaning behind other island site names. Wai'ala'e, according to several sources, means "mud hen water," Waihe'e means "squid liquid," Kane'oh'e translates curiously to "bamboo husband," and our personal favorite, "Aina Haina," means "land of dairy owner Robert Hind." (Good for him.)

But back to Ko Olina. Where exactly is our "place of joy," and how did we land there with this project? To find out, we called a very busy (and we're assuming well-tanned) Mike Lentz, Vice President of Real Estate and Resort Development for Walt Disney Imagineering.

The weather is beautiful

"Ko Olina is a perfect name for this resort area, because the weather is so great," Mike said. "It's on the Leeward coast, which means it's on the drier side of the island.

As the trade winds come across the ocean, they pick up a lot of moisture and deposit it on the windward side of the island. By the time those winds get to Ko Olina, they're nice, dry ocean breezes. Absolutely beautiful."

The best of all worlds

The vacation-friendly weather wasn't the only

perk that drew Imagineers to this site.

"We looked at the major islands of Maui, Kauai, O'ahu and the big island of Hawai'i, and we settled on O'ahu for a number of reasons, beginning with the accessibility of the island," Mike explained. "When it comes to ease of access for our Guests, O'ahu offers a great deal of convenience.

"The second draw was the existing infrastructure on the island of O'ahu, which complements our needs and is uniquely compatible to the size and scope of this project.

"But the most important reason was finding this specific site. It's an ideal location in a master-planned resort with a special set of amenities."

Those special amenities include, among other things, a championship golf course, an expansive marina and protected swimming lagoons.

"Ko Olina features four crescent-shaped, man-made lagoons that are protected because they're inland of the natural shoreline," Mike said. "While a lot of Hawaiian waters are beautiful, the swimming conditions can be challenging. So these protected lagoons offer a much better swimming experience for our Members and Guests."

The site has broad ocean frontage, which will allow Imagineers to make the most of the setting, maximizing the number of rooms with ocean views.

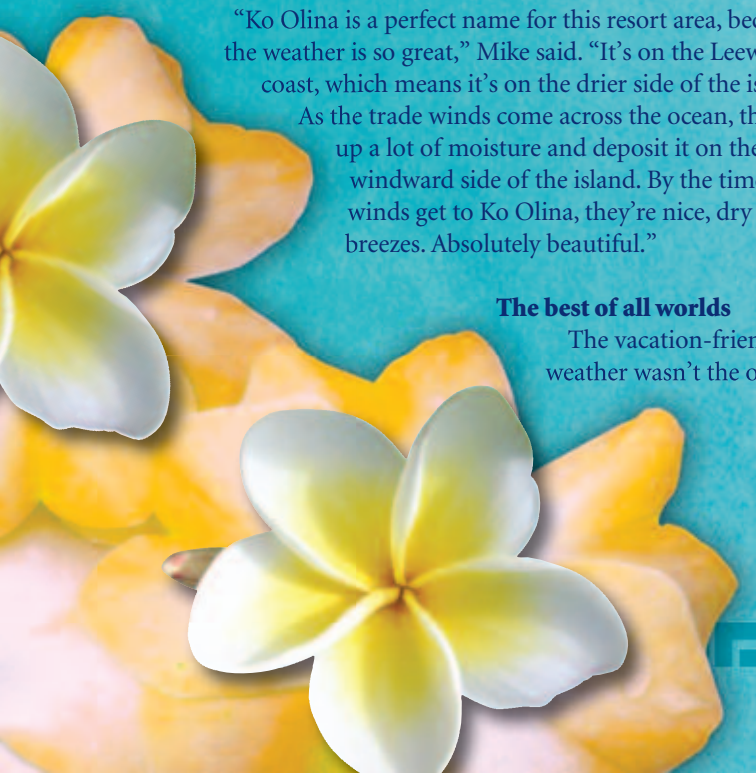
"Even the non-ocean views are going to be stunning, as these units will face the Emerald Mountains of the Wai'anae Mountain range," Mike added. (In case you're wondering, and we're sure you are, Wai'anae means "water of the mullet fish.")

"I was instantly impressed by this site," Mike said of his first visit in June 2006. "We looked at multiple sites on the island, but when we looked at Ko Olina's private lagoons, the nearby golf course and marina, the weather and the convenient access, this site just couldn't be beat. And while Ko Olina is located on the heavily visited and populated island of O'ahu, it's somewhat secluded from the urban environments of places like Honolulu and Waikiki. It really has an outer island feel, but with all of the conveniences of being on O'ahu."

It takes people

"One of our primary goals is to deliver a Hawaiian experience," Mike said. "It's something that's almost impossible to find on your own. You can stumble upon it as a vacationer, but unless someone really presents those local experiences, they're easy to miss. We want to remove the hassle and confusion, and deliver those experiences with the context and storytelling Guests expect from Disney.

"We're getting to know fascinating people who love to share stories of the history, legends and lore of the islands, and how they were developed. The opportunity to introduce our Guests to these interesting people and to have those people share their stories is going to be really fun."





Artist Rendering-Proposed

BLESSING THE GROUND YOU'LL WALK ON

Walt Disney Parks and Resorts officially broke ground on the Hawai'i project with a traditional Hawaiian blessing ceremony at the heart of its 21-acre oceanfront property at the Ko Olina Resort & Marina on the western side of O'ahu. Spiritual leaders joined local elected officials, Walt Disney Parks and Resorts Chairman Jay Rasulo and other Disney leaders to bless the ground and symbolically pave the way for development work to begin.

"This Disney destination Resort will provide a unique way for families to experience Hawai'i," Jay told reporters attending the ceremony, noting that Hawai'i is among the top vacation choices for Disney Vacation Club Members, following Disney Parks. "By blending Disney's high standard of Guest service and creative storytelling, we'll create a place where all family members can discover the wonder of these special islands."

State Senate President Colleen Hanabusa was among the Hawai'i officials on hand for the festive event.

"From the moment Disney announced that it was purchasing property on O'ahu, they have shown an interest in our community and have demonstrated they understand the spirit of aloha that we hold dear in our state," said an appreciative Hanabusa. "I couldn't be more pleased to welcome Disney to Hawai'i as a new neighbor and employer."



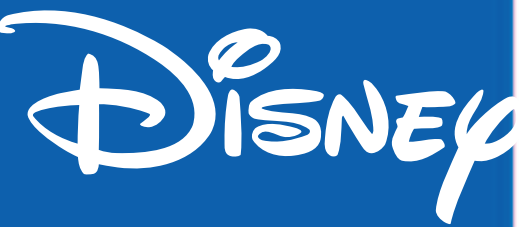


Artist Rendering-Proposed



Artist Rendering-Proposed



The Disney Vacation Club logo, featuring the word "Disney" in its signature script font, followed by "VACATION CLUB" in a bold, green, sans-serif font.

VACATION CLUB

news and insight from around the neighborhood

GRANDER CALIFORNIAN

The challenging expansion of an iconic resort

More than a year has passed since *Disney Files* Magazine peeled back the curtain on the expansion of *Disney's Grand Californian Hotel*® & Spa (pesky timeshare regulations!), the time has finally come to take another peek behind the construction fence.

But rather than breaking out our nifty night-vision goggles and snooping around the jobsite (where new hotel rooms and Disney Vacation Club villas are taking shape as you read this), we reached out to Walt Disney Imagineering Development Manager John Mauro, who graciously agreed to share an update. (We still wore the goggles. They're just cool.)

"Development work is moving along smoothly, and we're right on track for our targeted opening late this year," John said. "We've reached our topping-out point with the sixth floor, and the place is really starting to come together."

While it may be smooth sailing today, the project has presented the design team with a range of unique challenges stemming from the "intimate" setting of the *Disneyland*® Resort.

Unlike Disney Vacation Club expansion projects in Florida, where an abundance of land allows designers to create spaces and storylines that complement, but stand alone from, their sister properties, the California site attaches the expansion to the original hotel, requiring the late architect Peter Dominick to stay true to the hotel's iconic style.

"Another challenge arose through the site's close proximity to *Disney's California Adventure*® Park," John explained. "We're expanding this towering Arts and Crafts-style structure into the sightlines of the Park's seaside-themed Paradise Pier area, so we're using a unique collection of roof details, dimensions, textures and materials on that end of the building to visually break down the massiveness of the architecture."

The expansion also displaced a valet parking area (a notable concern in car-crazy California), prompting designers to create 300 underground valet spaces.

Inside the new accommodations, designers challenged themselves to bring something new to the hotel's celebrated mission-style furnishings.

"We've brought a bit of influence from the English Arts and Crafts movement into the new pieces," John said. "You'll see more curves, detailed stencil work and intricate inlays. It's a great complement to the furnishings in the existing hotel, while adding something a bit different."

Other villa highlights range from a "crafty" Murphy-bed-style single sleeper in the living room to such Disney subtleties as hidden Mickeys in carpeting to visual *Pinocchio* cues in bathroom wall borders.

Plans for new recreational offerings, meanwhile, include a game arcade (something the resort previously lost with the opening of the Mandara Spa), the butterfly-detailed Mariposa Pool (Spanish for "butterfly," the word mariposa appears throughout the state, which even boasts a Mariposa County), an expanded *Pinocchio's Workshop* childcare facility and more.



PUTTIN' ON THE CLIPS

Disney Vacation Club part of “America’s Funniest Home Videos” season No. 19

“America’s Funniest Home Videos,” the longest-running primetime show in ABC history, is helping Disney Vacation Club continue its recent momentum on the national airwaves. As the hit clip show awards Disney Vacation Club trips throughout the year and prepares to award a grand prize Disney Vacation Club Membership at season’s end*, *Disney Files Magazine* caught up with Co-executive Producer Michele Nasraway to get an inside look at a series that has become a beloved mainstay of American television.

Disney Files: Let’s start with the question you probably hear all the time. Just how many videos do you receive?

Nasraway: On average, anywhere from 1,000-1,200 a week. We still get tapes by mail, but our younger viewers in particular have really responded to the opportunity to upload their videos online at ABC.com.

DF: And what exactly are you looking for?

Nasraway: Our screeners watch every single video, and they’re really just looking for anything that makes them laugh. The producers then review the screeners’ choices and sometimes group the clips into themes before final decisions are made as to what comprises an episode and writing begins. It’s about a three-week process for each episode. And we kind of have to up the ante every season in terms of what we’re looking for, as viewers get tired of seeing the same thing all the time.

DF: Like people getting hit in the crotch?

Nasraway: Well that never gets old. Everyone loves a good crotch hit.

DF: Except maybe the guy attached to said crotch.

Nasraway: True. But we always look for the quick “recovery” moment in the video. We would never air a clip of someone getting seriously injured. If we don’t see that recovery moment, we follow up with the viewer to ensure that nobody got hurt.

*Viewers wishing to submit home videos to “America’s Funniest Home Videos” should visit www.ABC.com for details. Visit the AFV homepage on ABC.com throughout the season for more information, rules and entry periods for the sweepstakes and Grand Prize contests. No purchase necessary. Vin Di Bona is the show’s executive producer, with Todd Thicke and Michele Nasraway serving as co-executive producers.

DF: Good to know. And of course, the show’s about more than crotch hits and pratfalls.

Nasraway: Personally, I love the pet clips. This season, we have a clip of a snoring bulldog with a cheese puff balanced on his nose that you just have to see. It’s hilarious. I also love the classic clip of a dog growling at his own leg, which was one of our \$100,000 winners. And then there are the kids. You can’t watch our famous clip of quadruplet babies laughing at their dad and not crack up.

DF: Let’s talk about the videos that *don’t* make air. Any good ones come to mind?

Nasraway: Plenty. But they’re of a nature that isn’t exactly suitable for family television and probably wouldn’t be appropriate for the pages of your magazine.

DF: Say no more. Okay, let’s wrap up with a safer topic. You’ve been with “AFV” for 19 seasons. Have you been surprised by the show’s longevity?

Nasraway: Certainly, having a show on the air for 19 seasons is highly unusual, so we’re all probably surprised in that regard. But there’s a pretty obvious explanation for the show’s success. It’s just fun, simple comedy that everyone can relate to. America supplies us with our material, and it’s all genuine.

“America’s Funniest Home Videos” airs in the U.S. on Sundays at 7 p.m. (6 p.m. Central) on ABC.





PERK ALERTS

Member savings and experiences

PERFECT TENS

New 10 percent dining discounts available

Sometimes, vacations and homework have to go hand in hand. (Sorry, kids, but “we’re going to *Epcot*®” just didn’t convince your teachers to excuse your absence from school.) So to feed your mind, we’re going to do some Disney Vacation Club discount math. Here we go...

If you get a 10 percent discount on 11 different meals on your vacation, how quickly do the savings add up to the equivalent of a free meal? If you answered, “the train arrives in Des Moines at 10:38 a.m.” (like we did), it’s probably time to replace your abacus.

Fortunately, saving while you eat is actually pretty simple. Let’s start in the Parks, where at *Epcot*, Members now receive 10 percent off lunch and dinner at Tutto Italia in Italy, and on lunch at the Rose & Crown Pub & Dining Room in the United Kingdom. At *Disney’s Animal Kingdom*® Theme Park, meanwhile, that same offer extends to lunch and dinner at Tusker House in Africa.

While you’re out resort hopping, enjoy a 10 percent discount on dinner at Artist Point at Disney’s Wilderness Lodge (Sunday-Thursday only), breakfast or dinner at Boatwright’s Dining Hall at Disney’s Port Orleans Resort Riverside, and breakfast or lunch at the Grand Floridian Café at Disney’s Grand Floridian Resort & Spa.

Not to be left out, the Sand Trap Bar & Grill at *Disney’s Osprey Ridge* Golf Clubhouse also offers the 10 percent lunch discount.

So while we figure out how to get from Orlando to Des Moines by 10:38 a.m., we hope you’ll enjoy these special offers just for Members. (Anyone in the market for a gently-used abacus?)

AT “HOME” IN ITALY

Adventures by Disney offering special Member trip in July

Following an enthusiastic response to the first Disney Vacation Club Member version of its *Backstage Magic* trip through Southern California in September 2008 – and a strong early response to that trip’s upcoming encore performance May 12-17 – *Adventures by Disney* is offering a Member version of its wildly popular *Viva Italia* trip, exploring Italy July 20-28.

The *Viva Italia* itinerary, which at press time ranks as the most popular *Adventures by Disney* option among Disney Vacation Club Members for 2009, features visits to Rome, Florence and Venice. While you can read more about what makes the *Viva Italia* trip and *Adventures by Disney* experiences in general so popular in a special Member Getaways report on pages 11-12, here’s a look at a few of the additional experiences planned exclusively for Members and their Guests during the July trip.

Rome by night: The group will tour the Eternal City after dark in an exclusive open-air motor coach, seeing Rome’s architecture and monuments in a new light.

Murano excursion: An exclusive water taxi will sail to the Island of Murano, where famous Venetian glass has been blown and hand-crafted for centuries. The group will enjoy a glass-blowing demonstration, tour a showroom and explore the quaint shops that line Murano’s canals.

Gelato tasting: In the heart of Florence, the group will get a behind-the-scenes look at the creation of Italy’s most popular dessert. (And taste it, of course. That’s the best part.)

Duomo: The group will step back in time through the historic renaissance cathedral of Florence, marveling at the intricate details of the famed Duomo.

Call Member Services to secure your space on this special Member trip.



MAMMOTH DEALS OF PREHISTORIC PROPORTIONS

T-Rex offers Member discounts

Dining with family and friends is fun. Dining with family, friends, a woolly mammoth and an apatosaurus? T-rific! Dining with family, friends, a woolly mammoth and an apatosaurus while a meteor shower unleashes its fury on the ceiling? Bone-tastic!



And doing it all with a smug look on your face, knowing you're getting a Member discount? Dino-mite! (Okay, enough of that.) With that fossil foolishness out of our system, let's talk about the deals.

T-Rex: A Prehistoric Family Adventure, A Place to Eat, Shop, Explore and Discover®, (say *that* five times fast with a mouth full of Prehistoric Panini), now open at *Downtown Disney*® Marketplace at the *Walt Disney World*® Resort, is offering Disney Vacation Club Members a 10 percent discount on lunch and dinner entrees for one Member and as many as three Guests, and a 15 percent discount on non-sale merchandise in the Dino-Store (excluding *Build-A-Dino*® by *Build-A-Bear Workshop*®).

So what sorts of culinary expeditions can you embark upon with this discount? Well aside from the aforementioned Prehistoric Panini, there's the Triassic Tortellini, Pteradactyl Salad, Mammoth Mushroom Ravioli and a whole sequoia forest full of other cretaceous creations. We highly suggest using these proper names when you place your order. It may not get you a bigger discount, but we guarantee it'll up the hilarity factor by *at least* 10 percent.

Did you know? American paleontologist Henry Fairfield Osborn came up with the name *Tyrannosaurus Rex* (which means tyrant lizard king) in 1905. Until then, folks just called the dinosaur Carl. (Okay, maybe not. But when you meet T-Rex at the restaurant, feel free to call him Carl.)

PUT SOME 'NAMASTE' IN YOUR RESORT STAY

Mandara Spa at *Disney's Grand Californian Hotel*® & Spa offers Member discount

There's one in every family. While the rest of the gang rises before dawn to be the first to climb aboard the Matterhorn Bobsleds, this person's idea of a *Disneyland*® Resort vacation means relaxation and indulgence. When everyone else is out enjoying the "aww" of a meeting with the mouse, this one's more interested in the "ahhh" of a hot-stone treatment or Frangipani Nourish Wrap. (To clarify, that last one's a spa treatment, not a delicious and nutritious lunch.)

To this relaxed member of the family, we say, "namaste." The Mandara Spa at *Disney's Grand Californian Hotel* & Spa offers Disney Vacation Club Members a 10 percent discount on a wide range of treatments, from massage therapies and rejuvenating facials to such salon services as manicures, pedicures and, yes, even the Frangipani Nourish Wrap (a massage and treatment utilizing moisturizing plumeria and coconut oil).

For reservations, call (714) 300-7350, and remember to mention that you're a Disney Vacation Club Member.

And as if that 10 percent discount wasn't good enough news on its own, we were pleased to read on the spa's Web site that, "you may even feel as if you could live forever." Relaxation, rejuvenation and delusions of immortality, all at a discount? Membership really *is* magical!





MEMBER GETAWAYS

discover a whole new world

VIVA ITALIA

Adventures by Disney itinerary brings Italy's best to life

More Disney Vacation Club Members than ever are looking to *Adventures by Disney* to help turn their Member Getaways experiences into vacations of a lifetime.

With privately guided itineraries spanning the globe from the American Southwest to the savannas of South Africa, *Adventures by Disney* vacations are helping Member families experience places they've only dreamed of visiting.

And no itinerary has proven more popular in the Member community than *Viva Italia*. Fueled by the history and splendor of such iconic destinations as Rome, Florence and Venice, *Viva Italia* sits alone atop the list of favorite *Adventures by Disney* itineraries among Disney Vacation Club Members.

As Members prepare for a special Disney Vacation Club edition of the trip later this year (see page 9 for details), the *Disney Files* staff decided to look into what makes this itinerary (and *Adventures by Disney* experiences in general) so popular.

Mind you, we aren't here to deliver a day-by-day rundown of trip highlights, as you can read all about the Venetian gondolas, Medieval villages and other cool stuff online at www.adventuresbydisney.com. Instead, we sat down with two members of the *Adventures by Disney* Trip Operations team -- Holly McBride and Fred Zappala -- to get the inside scoop about what makes these *Adventures by Disney* trips tick.

Disney Files: What do you think draws so many Members to the *Viva Italia* itinerary?

Holly: Like all of our destinations, Italy is one of those iconic places you dream of visiting, but it can be a bit overwhelming to plan such a trip on your own. We take the planning out of the equation so families can simply enjoy their vacation, knowing that we're taking care of the details.

Fred: And Italy just ranks so high on the "pinch me" factor. Everyone has seen images of Vatican City, the Sistine Chapel, the Roman Coliseum and Michelangelo's "David," but to see it all in person can be a pretty surreal and emotional experience. Those are the moments our Adventure Guides really look forward to sharing with each group.

DF: Let's talk about those Adventure Guides. There are two on every trip, which isn't exactly standard protocol in the guided-tour business.

Holly: It's not, and it's absolutely huge. With two Adventure Guides on every trip, the interaction with Guests just becomes so rich. At any given time, one Guide can coordinate logistics, while the other interacts with families and helps bring experiences to life. And on the *Viva Italia* trip



specifically, at least one of the Guides is typically from Italy or has lived in the country for some time, which adds a great local perspective to the experience.

DF: We hear a lot about local expertise as it pertains to these trips.

Fred: It certainly plays a big role in making our trips so unique. Using *Viva Italia* as an example, a local expert teaches Guests to make pasta from scratch, while another helps families create their own Venetian masks. There's even a surprise visit from Marco Polo. We sort of redefine the idea of "characters" and bring stories to life in ways families expect from Disney but may not expect to find outside of a Theme Park, resort or cruise ship.

Holly: And it's in those interactions that Guests discover some of the greatest surprises on these trips. Guests, for example, may doubt whether they can, or even want to, make pasta or create a mask. But time and time again, they point to those experiences as highlights of their trip. Those interactions open their eyes to things they may have never considered.

DF: Speaking of eye-opening, it sounds like these trips have a pretty unique ability to open Guests' eyes to a world they never really thought they could explore.

Holly: Absolutely. World travel can be intimidating. Where are the best hotels? Where will we eat? What do I need to see? What will I miss while I'm trying to find my way around? By taking those worries off the table, we're essentially creating a cruise experience on land. It may start with an *Adventures by Disney* trip through Italy, and then, almost overnight, the notion of visiting places like South Africa, China and Australia

seems a lot more realistic.

Fred: Something else interesting happens when you take vacation-planning out of the equation. In a way, the Adventure Guides take on all of the coordination that typically keeps parents so busy during the traditional family vacation. Parents, therefore, are on a more level playing field with their kids, just enjoying the ride. The kids, in turn, seem to unplug from their games and headphones, and we see families reconnect in some pretty compelling ways.

DF: We've also heard stories from Members about surprising connections they've formed with other travelers in their groups.

Holly: I can't tell you how many Guests contact us after their vacation to tell us that they're still in touch with people they met on the trip. And many of these Guests were a bit leery about traveling in a group, so this is definitely an unexpected bonus.

Fred: Of course, we also know that not everyone wants to spend all of their time with the group, so we take special care to ensure that every trip has a good balance of group and on-your-own time. One family may want to experience Italy's fine dining, while another just wants to spend as much time as possible exploring ruins and monuments. The on-your-own time ensures that everyone can get the experiences they're looking for. This is *their* story.

Call Member Services to learn how to bring your Member Getaways story to life through *Adventures by Disney*.



HOT TOPICS

From the 2008 condominium association meeting

More than 500 Members gathered this winter at the *Walt Disney World* Resort for the 2008 condominium association meeting. For the second year in a row, the consolidated meeting served Members from all home resorts, maximizing the efficiency of this annual event and creating a unique opportunity for Members to mix and mingle with their neighbors from throughout the Disney Vacation Club community.

Among the meeting highlights was a review of the 2008 Condominium Association Survey, which revealed that 91 percent of Members described their overall Membership satisfaction as “excellent” or “very good.” (Look for more details about the survey in the summer edition of *Disney Files Magazine*.) The meeting also included a review of 2008 costs and approval of the 2009 budget, a look ahead at “what’s next” in the house of mouse (from Disney Parks’ recently launched “What will you celebrate?” campaign to a sneak peek at the upcoming Disney nature film *Earth*) and an opportunity for Members to pose their questions to Disney Vacation Club leaders. Here are some of the “hot topics” from the session:

Question: What’s being done to improve the efficiency of bus transportation at Disney’s Saratoga Springs Resort & Spa?

Answer: The Transportation team has introduced new dispatch software designed to better manage routes throughout the *Walt Disney World* Resort and has assigned “floater” buses to Disney’s Saratoga Springs Resort & Spa, deploying those additional vehicles as needed to meet demand. The team

continues to closely monitor service at all Disney Vacation Club Resorts to identify issues and implement additional adjustments to continually improve Guest service levels.

Question: How can Members quickly learn when the next annual condominium association meeting is taking place so they can plan to attend?

Answer: Meeting organizers recognize that December is a busy travel month and have taken steps to secure and share the date as quickly as possible. The next meeting date – Dec. 9, 2009 – was announced online at www.dvcmember.com within weeks of the 2008 meeting, and a reminder of that date will appear in each edition of *Disney Files Magazine* through the remainder of the year.

Question: Has Disney Vacation Club considered broadcasting the meeting online for those unable to attend?

Answer: Leaders have, indeed, investigated this option and have opted against it for a number of reasons. In addition to the high cost impact to Members relative to the few requests for such a broadcast and the difficulty of effectively capturing the meetings’ entertainment elements online, the presentations contain sensitive, proprietary information (such as new resort designs) that the company isn’t comfortable sharing outside of the meeting venue.

Question: When will Members be able to book resort reservations online?

Answer: This is a priority for Disney Vacation Club, and information-technology efforts are underway to make this service available. While no timetable has been set, Disney Vacation Club President Jim Lewis expressed his optimism for a launch by early next year. *Disney Files Magazine* will share updates when new details are available.

CLEVER COUTURE by Andrew Santelli

WIT AND WISDOM IN 100% COTTON

Disney Vacation Club Advance Sales Associate (and *Disney Files Magazine* contributor) Andrew Santelli has a keen eye for wearable wit and is here to share some of the most memorable T-shirts he’s observed on Guests from his prime viewing location at Disney Vacation Club Information Centers throughout the *Walt Disney World* Resort. Enjoy the madcap, short-sleeved hilarity.

Where: *Disney’s Animal Kingdom* Theme Park

What: Shirt reading, “To be honest with you, I’m a liar.”

Why I loved it: Some shirts make you laugh out loud, some make you pause and ponder, and some just boggle your mind. This was a mind-boggler. If I asked him where he was from, could I trust his answer?

Where: Disney’s Saratoga Springs Resort & Spa

What: Shirt reading, “I’m looking forward to regretting this.”

Why I loved it: My imagination started racing, wondering just what he was going to regret. Was he about to purchase one of

those gigantic lollipops that nobody ever finishes?

Where: *Disney’s Animal Kingdom* Theme Park

What: An entire family in identical shirts, and their teenage son in one reading, “I don’t do matching shirts.”

Why I loved it: I salute you, young man, for bucking convention and bringing laughter to the (Animal) Kingdom.

Where: *Epcot*

What: Shirt reading, “It’s okay, Pluto, I’m not a planet either.”

Why I loved it: Who doesn’t love a good joke about the largest member of the Kuiper belt? I know I do. And when the dwarf planet shares its name with Mickey Mouse’s BFF? Well, it just doesn’t get much better than that.



SARATOGA SPRINGS HOUSE SALAD

DOMESTIC
DISNEY

Spent the holiday season eating enough cakes, pies and frosted snowmen to test the structural limits of even the most finely crafted belt? *Disney Files Magazine* is here to help. Put down the petit fours (okay, maybe just one more) and try your hand at this lovely (and delightfully sensible) house salad from The Artist's Palette at Disney's Saratoga Springs Resort & Spa. Serve it with a pile of fried chicken, some gravy-soaked potatoes and a hearty slice of deep-fried cheesecake, and you'll head into 2009 on the road to good health.*

*Technically speaking, nobody on the *Disney Files* staff is a licensed dietician, so you may want to ignore that last line.

Serves 4

Salad ingredients:

- 4 cups gourmet salad mix (fancy lettuce)
- 4 tablespoons dried cranberries
- 2 tablespoons dried blueberries
- 1/2 unpeeled red apple, diced
- 2 tablespoons chopped walnuts
- 1/2 cup Poppy Seed Dressing (recipe follows)

Steps (or in this case, step):

1. Combine all ingredients in a large bowl and toss gently. Serve with Poppy Seed Dressing.

Poppy Seed Dressing ingredients:

- 1/4 cup white sugar
- 1/4 cup lemon juice
- 1 teaspoon diced onion
- 1/2 teaspoon Dijon mustard
- 1/4 teaspoon coarse salt
- 6 tablespoons canola oil
- 1 1/2 teaspoons poppy seeds

Poppy Seed Dressing steps:

1. Combine first five ingredients (everything except for the canola oil and poppy seeds) in blender or food processor and process 20 seconds.
2. With blender on high, gradually add oil in a slow, steady stream. Stir in poppy seeds.
3. Once blended to your satisfaction, you're done!
(Ah, the gift of simplicity!)

Chef Ron Cavileer prepares a Saratoga Springs House Salad at The Artist's Palette at Disney's Saratoga Springs Resort & Spa.



Fridge-o-Fame

A refrigerator is more than just a place to store the leftovers you felt too guilty to leave at the restaurant but have no intention of eating. It's a place of family honor, a surface on which to display report cards, award certificates or that old photo of your first born rockin' his awesome Pluto hat. Like a proud parent, *Disney Files Magazine* celebrates the achievements of Members and their families here on the "Fridge-o-Fame."



DVC



Can you use it in a sentence? Thirteen-year-old Christian Thompson, part of the Thompson family of New Jersey, Members since 1992, was one of only 288 students nationwide to earn the right to compete in the Scripps National Spelling Bee in Washington, D.C. (Perhaps there's a job on the *Disney Files* staff in his future?)

Mickey Moss: Beneath the low-hanging branches of a Japanese Maple in the Connecticut garden of Betsy Lyle, Member since 1995, a small rock grew this unmistakable Mickey head of lichen (fancy word for fungus). We're stretching to call this an "achievement," but it's cool. And, since Mother Nature isn't technically a Member, we're giving the credit to Betsy. Well done.



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, 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.



Artist Rendering-Proposed

New digs on the block: Construction is moving full speed ahead on new Disney Vacation Club accommodations at the Walt Disney World® Resort, and Members are gearing up to check out the new additions to their neighborhood. As you read this magazine, Members are making reservations for Disney's Animal Kingdom Villas' Kidani Village and the Treehouse Villas at Disney's Saratoga Springs Resort & Spa, and reservations for Bay Lake Tower at Disney's Contemporary Resort (seen above in this snazzy artist rendering) are slated to begin in March.

Gone wireless: Disney's Hilton Head Island Resort has debuted Wi-Fi Internet access throughout the resort. Disney Vacation Club Members pay no daily fee for the service, and non-Members may utilize the service for \$9.95 plus tax daily (up to, but not including, the departure date). Similar plans are in the works for Wi-Fi service at Disney's Vero Beach Resort, though no debut date has been determined at press time.

Seasons of renewal: After replacing kitchen appliances last summer, crews spent the winter months replacing carpets, drapes, upholstery and other soft goods throughout Disney's Vero Beach Resort. The *Disney Files* staff was particularly amused to learn that Members and Guests can now "find Nemo" in the new shower curtains, giving "the mouse" a little friendly competition in the "hidden characters" arena. The refurbishment effort is scheduled for completion by the time you read this magazine.

Jambo vs. Kidani: What sounds like an epic Mixed Martial Arts bout is actually a matter of Disney's Animal Kingdom Villas nomenclature. In case you're confused, Jambo House simply refers to the original Disney's Animal Kingdom Lodge building, home to hotel rooms, Disney Vacation Club villas and restaurants that have been fan favorites since 2001. Kidani Village, meanwhile, is an adjacent Disney Vacation Club village that's slated to feature villas, a new pool and water play "camp," a new restaurant and

more when it opens (scheduled for May). While Members staying at Disney's Animal Kingdom Villas will enjoy the amenities of both Jambo House and Kidani Village, they must check in at the building in which they're staying. Glad we cleared that up.

High Rock happenings: The High Rock Spring Pool at Disney's Saratoga Springs Resort & Spa is scheduled to undergo refurbishment March 9-27. Plans call for crews to resurface the pool and spa, re-coat the slide, re-caulk the pool deck and more. The resort's leisure pools, which are slated for refurbishment efforts later this year, will remain open during the High Rock Spring Pool project. Also remember that "hopping" to other Walt Disney World pools is part of the magic of Membership. Speaking of which...

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 Feb. 15-21, April 4-18, May 22-25, June 28-July 5, Sept. 4-7 and Nov. 23-29, 2009, and Dec. 13, 2009-Jan. 3, 2010. Please remember that the pool-hopping perk is available only to Members staying at an eligible Disney Vacation Club Resort. Complete details are available in *Portable Perks* and at www.dvcmember.com.



Condo meeting: A single 2009 condominium association meeting for all Disney Vacation Club Resorts is planned for Dec. 9 at the Walt Disney World Resort. Watch www.dvcmember.com for details.

Disney

DESTINATIONS

news and insight from the places where dreams come true

'PIE-EYED' IN THE SKY

Imagineers transform Disney's California Adventure® icon

DISNEYLAND® Resort: At Disney Parks, the eyes really do have it. Who among us hasn't been bright-eyed (to say nothing of bushy-tailed) at an early morning rope drop? Or wide-eyed at that first look at the castle? Or even starry-eyed when meeting our favorite Disney Princess?

But are you ready to be pie-eyed? Don't worry. We aren't throwing pies. Pie-eyed simply refers to Mickey's classic depiction in the early years that inspired one of the latest projects at Disney's California Adventure Park -- the enhancement of the iconic, 150-foot Sun Wheel.

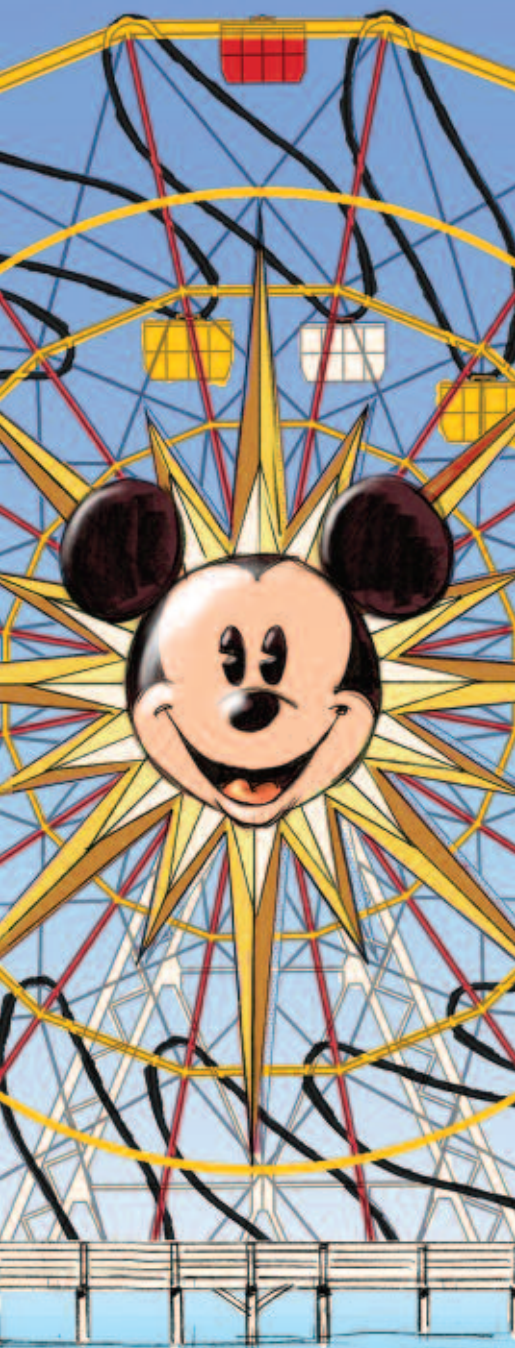
When the big cheese burst onto the scene in 1928, his eyes were simply large black disks. In the 1930s, artists added triangular, white wedges, like slices of pie, to give the Mick's eyes more expression and focus -- hence the name "pie-eyed" Mickey. (His eyes stayed "pied" until the 1939 animated short "The Pointer" replaced the style with small dark pupils on white eyes.)

The "eye-popping" transformation of the Sun Wheel into Mickey's Fun Wheel, part of a multi-year effort to enhance and expand the Park, also calls for the addition of other classic Disney characters to this Paradise Pier attraction. The 16 swinging gondolas (favored by your fun-loving magazine staff) will sport the happy faces of Minnie Mouse, Goofy, Pluto or Donald, while stationary gondolas (perfectly pleasant, though not as thrilling in our non-pied eyes) will boast a Mickey theme.

The freshly designed wheel also will feature a state-of-the-art lighting system and a kaleidoscopic effect that will come courtesy of rotating sun rays extending outward from behind Mickey's mug.

But Mickey's Fun Wheel is more than just the apple of an Imagineer's eye. It's a sign of things to come throughout Paradise Pier. Future plans call for the Orange Stinger to become Silly Symphony Swings, the addition of new, Disney-inspired Games of the Boardwalk, "placemaking" enhancements of everything from newsstands to food carts and other efforts designed to tell the story of an era when Mickey (pie-eyed or otherwise) was just a twinkle in Walt's eye. (And with that, we're fresh out of "eye" references.)

Work began on the towering wheel last fall, and the new Mickey's Fun Wheel is slated to debut during the first half of this year.



DID YOU KNOW?

The Sun Wheel, soon to be known as Mickey's Fun Wheel, was inspired by Coney Island's famous Wonder Wheel. Built from 1918-1920 at the legendary Brooklyn park, the wheel has been a New York icon for decades and was named a New York City Landmark in 1989.



FESTIVAL DARES

Enhancing your enjoyment of the *Epcot*® International Flower & Garden Festival

WALT DISNEY WORLD® Resort: The arrival of spring means different things to different people. If you live in Vermont, for example, it means trading your ridiculously heavy coat for one that's still pretty heavy but slightly less ridiculous. If you're the IRS (boo!), it's collection time! And if you're a *Walt Disney World* Guest, it means the *Epcot* International Flower & Garden Festival is back.

From March 18-May 31, topiary displays will abound, horticulturalists will enlighten, Flower Power Concerts will rock (Friday, Saturday and Sunday evenings) and millions of blooms will, well, bloom during a colorful "Celebrations"-themed event. You can learn more online at www.disneyworld.com/flower. In the meantime, your *Disney Files* staff is here to enhance your enjoyment of three new festival offerings by challenging you to some ill-conceived dares.

New offering 1: a Pixie Hollow topiary display featuring stars of Walt Disney Pictures' animated movie *Tinker Bell*

Ridiculous dare 1: Tell the first stranger you see at the display that the character on the right is the "chlorophyll fairy," and that you're going to take out some allergy-fueled aggression as soon as you get your hands on the "pollen fairy."

New offering 2: an interactive Pirates Adventure Zone where you can explore, play and create your own adventure



Ridiculous

dare 2: Explain to nearby

Cast Members (in your worst possible pirate voice) that, while you think you've dodged "the scurvy," you're still a bit worried about "the rickets." Ask if they have advice.

New offering 3: the addition of Harold Melvin's Blue Notes (whose hit song "If You Don't Know Me By Now" helped boys in the '70s "get the girl" on dance floors) to the Flower Power Concert Series (April 24-26). (Other scheduled acts include Davy Jones March 20-22, Paul Revere & The Raiders March 27-29, The Turtles featuring Flo & Eddie April 3-5, Herman's Hermits starring Peter Noone April 10-12, The Ventures April 17-19, Chubby Checker & The Wildcats May 1-3, Ricky Nelson Remembered featuring The Nelsons May 8-10, Jose Feliciano May 15-17, The 5th Dimension May 22-24 and Tony Orlando May 29-31.)*

Ridiculous dare 3: Let the mood move you at the Blue Notes show, and ask a stranger to dance with you in the aisle. (Bonus if you slow dance "middle school style," maintaining a solid foot and a half between you and your new friend.)

*Concerts included with *Epcot* admission. Entertainment subject to change without notice. Song referenced is for artist recognition only, and may not be on play list. (Either way, dance like nobody's watching. Even though they probably will be.)

THE TASTIEST PLACE ON EARTH

Disney's California Food and Wine Festival returns

DISNEYLAND® Resort: Disney's California Food and Wine Festival will transform *Disney's California Adventure*® Park into an international culinary celebration April 24-June 7. The six-week festival will celebrate the best of world cuisine while paying tribute to the international flavors, people and traditions that have made California one of the most diverse places on earth.

Planned highlights include new Celebrity Chef Events, World Celebration Dinners, Advanced Wine Tasting Courses, Sweet Sundays with acclaimed pastry chefs and more. Also new this year is the Global Village, showcasing visiting artisans, culturally inspired live entertainment and festival merchandise.

Complimentary experiences range from Wine, Beer and Spirits Tasting Seminars led by a noted winemaker, master brewer

or *Disneyland* Resort Sommelier to weekend Culinary Demonstrations led by leading chefs from around the world to a Junior Chef Children's Program led by Goofy for kids ages 11 or younger (not sure which culinary institute Goofy attended, but he'll be great). Signature ticketed events, meanwhile, will include such highlights as Cook Book Signings, the Napa Rose Cooking School and the festival's most popular event, Taste, showcasing some of the world's finest chefs, wines and live entertainment.

Select *Disneyland* Resort restaurants will serve festival-inspired fare, Festival Wine Receptions will engage the senses, and Celebrity Chef Events will give Guests the chance to mix, mingle and munch with cooking-show stars.

Visit www.disneyland.com/foodandwine to learn more (and to register for those signature ticketed events, which fill up fast).

Festival events subject to change without notice.



HOLD ONTO YOUR FLASHLIGHTS!

Tokyo Disneyland® Park puts Monsters in the spotlight

TOKYO DISNEY RESORT®: You've just got to love an attraction that prompts you to hold onto something. An X-2 Deep Space Shuttle as you lead the first manned mission to Mars. Whimsical laser blasters as you help Buzz Lightyear protect the galaxy from the threat of invasion. Your own hats and glasses as you head out on the wildest ride in the wilderness. Or perhaps even your surprisingly jumpy uncle as happy haunts materialize and reduce him to tears.

April 15 marks the official grand opening of the latest addition to this list of grab-tastic adventures (that's right, we said, "grab-tastic"): *Monsters, Inc. Ride & Go Seek!* at *Tokyo Disneyland* Park.

Guests boarding this interactive *Tomorrowland*® attraction will grab hold of "flashlights" as they join a search for Boo, the impossibly cute little girl who got famously lost in the monster world in the hit Disney•Pixar film *Monsters, Inc.* (Please refrain from using the flashlights to poke or prod your uncle. He's been through enough.)

Upon entering Monstropolis, Guests board special rotating vehicles designed to ensure that everyone has a front row seat for the action. And those tightly held flashlights do more than just occupy idle hands. They emit magical beams capable of triggering a variety of special effects, monster appearances and other surprises throughout the attraction, making the experience an ever-changing adventure of grab-tastic proportions. (You know you're going to start using that word.)

Our good friends at Walt Disney Imagineering (hi, friends!) describe this as a "classic dark ride combined with interactive technology," but we think it's just plain fun for everyone. (Even for your jumpy, traumatized uncle, who still deserves your respect.)

Oh, and if you can't make it to Tokyo anytime soon, remember that you can enjoy *Monsters, Inc.*-inspired hilarity at *Monsters, Inc. Mike & Sulley to the Rescue!* at *Disney's California Adventure*® Park and the *Monsters, Inc. Laugh Floor* at the *Magic Kingdom*® Park. (You'll just have to bring your own flashlight, and it won't trigger any effects. Unless you count angry looks from others as "effects.")





INSPIRATION MEETS CONSERVATION

Disney biologist leads conservation efforts in Colombia

WALT DISNEY WORLD® Resort: Great ideas can spring from unlikely circumstances. For years, *Disney's Animal Kingdom* Senior Conservation Biologist Dr. Anne Savage and other wildlife researchers have worked to bring awareness to the plight of the critically endangered cotton-top tamarin, a monkey native to Colombia.

Waiting out a rainstorm during one expedition into Colombian forests, a member of the team decided to pass the time crocheting. Unfortunately, she was out of fabric. Ever resourceful, Dr. Anne and her team saw the abundance of plastic shopping bags littering the village and decided to shred the bags into crochet-worthy strands. With that one little spark, the very fabric of Colombian life changed for the better.

The team soon began teaching women in nearby communities to use the discarded bags (which make the cotton-top tamarins sick when consumed) to crochet tote bags called *eco-mochilas*. Since then, more than 300 trained villagers have removed more than 1.5 million bags from cotton-top tamarin habitats and have injected life into the local economy through the

sale of *eco-mochilas*, which are available for purchase at *Disney's Animal Kingdom*® Theme Park and Disney's Vero Beach Resort.

"People living in rural communities near the forest are learning how their lives and their livelihood are connected to the long-term survival of this critically endangered monkey and the forests it needs to survive," Anne explained. "It's really been inspiring to see how these communities have not only cleaned up the environment but have benefited by getting involved in a conservation program that provides an income for their families and protects the cotton-top tamarin."

In related news, the Disney Worldwide Conservation Fund is helping community leaders create the area's first conservation center, which will host visitors and provide workspace for the artisans creating *eco-mochilas*. Each year, Guest contributions help fund Disney's support of comprehensive conservation programs that engage communities to make a difference for wildlife and wild places.



A NEW DIMENSION OF CINEMA AT SEA

Ships debut another industry first

DISNEY CRUISE LINE®: *Disney Cruise Line* has once again revolutionized shipboard entertainment, taking Guests into "uncharted waters" with a cinematic experience unavailable anywhere else at sea.

Both the *Disney Magic*® and *Disney Wonder*® cruise ships now boast *Disney Digital 3-D™* technology in the Walt Disney Theatre and Buena Vista Theatre, allowing first-run Disney films to leap off the screen like never before. Beginning this spring, select presentations will blend the cutting-edge 3-D images with lasers, fog, streamers, special lighting and other effects to create a truly immersive experience.

"With *Disney Digital 3-D*, we can provide extraordinary cinematic experiences for our Guests that no other cruise line can offer," said Tom McAlpin, President of *Disney Cruise Line*. "Innovation and high-quality family entertainment are *Disney Cruise Line* hallmarks, and the addition of *Disney Digital 3-D* perfectly complements our industry-leading collection of entertainment options already onboard our ships."

The technology made its *Disney Cruise Line* debut in November with a special *Disney Digital 3-D* midnight presentation of Walt Disney Animation Studios' *Bolt* in the Walt Disney Theatre, and plans for future 3-D presentations include such titles as *Jonas Brothers: The 3-D Concert Experience*,

Disney•Pixar's Up, producer Jerry Bruckheimer's *G-FORCE*, the re-release of *Disney•Pixar's Toy Story* and Disney's *A Christmas Carol* (a performance-capture film in which Jim Carrey will perform as several characters in his Disney-movie debut).

Walt Disney Studios Motion Pictures Group President Mark Zoradi praised the timing of the technology's nautical debut, saying, "The 3-D immersive experience is better than ever."





MORE TO REPORT

good to know before you go

The Walt Disney Company: A very curious question has been floating around our wonderful world of Disney. “Are you 23?” At first, our Editor was flattered by what he assumed was praise for his youthful appearance, but it turns out the question has nothing to do with him. (Though we’re letting the old man continue living with his delusion.) We reached out to our ultimate insider -- Disney Legend and Chief Disney Archivist Dave Smith -- but his lips are sealed. He did tell us to expect an announcement on March 10, and that we should check out www.Disney.com/23. (Then he grinned like a Cheshire Cat who swallowed a Wonderland canary.)

DISNEYLAND® Resort: This spring brings the highly anticipated re-opening of the “it’s a small world” attraction at *Disneyland Park*. As with recent enhancements to the *Pirates of the Caribbean* and *Haunted Mansion*® attractions on both U.S. coasts, Imagineers have taken great care to infuse the original “it’s a small world” attraction with fresh elements that remain true to the original artists’ vision. The update includes a new flume and toy-inspired boats, a new America scene, new lighting and speakers, select dolls dressed as their favorite Disney characters in the characters’ native countries (also look for a few character-inspired toys), and a careful restoration of the grand finale.

WALT DISNEY WORLD® Resort: A new Grand Marshal vehicle is cruising the *Magic Kingdom*® streets with Mickey Mouse tread on every tire. The new car carries Guests of honor down the Park’s daily parade route in grand Disney style. To fit the *Main Street, U.S.A.*® theme, the Grand Marshal vehicle draws inspiration from 1912 touring cars. The design also allows Guests in wheelchairs to board easily and ride in the main seating area.

WALT DISNEY WORLD Resort: The tradition of waving to monorail trains whilst enjoying a meal is alive and well at Disney’s Contemporary Resort. (That’s not a typo. We said, “whilst.”) Now open at the former site of the Concourse Steakhouse on the hotel’s famed fourth floor concourse is the Contempo Café, a new quick-service location offering a “chic, open dining experience.” Adding to the eatery’s contemporary flair are electronic kiosks from which hungry Guests order their food. Those soon-to-be-fed individuals (like the lovely Disney Vacation Club Cast Members pictured here) then proceed to the register to pick up a pager that will alert them to their food’s readiness. The Contempo Café is open from 6 a.m.-midnight.

WALT DISNEY WORLD Resort: *Disney’s Wide World of Sports*® Complex will host the Inaugural ESPN RISE Games July 18-25. The multi-sport event will host more than 2,000 amateur athletes aspiring to reach the next level of competition, with elite programming slated for broadcast on ESPN outlets. For more information, visit www.espnrisegames.com.

Are you 23?

March 10 • Disney
disney.com/23





WALT DISNEY WORLD® Resort: Star athletes and ESPN personalities will engage Guests through live and taped broadcasts, celebrity motorcades, interactive talk shows and more during ESPN The Weekend Feb. 27-March 1 at *Disney's Hollywood Studios*™. Learn more about the annual sports fan fest online at www.espntheweekend.com.

WALT DISNEY WORLD Resort: *Star Wars*™ Weekends are returning to the Disney galaxy, bringing the Force to *Disney's Hollywood Studios* May 22-24 and 29-30, and June 5-7 and 12-14. *Star Wars* characters, celebrities and experiences promise to make this intergalactic fan fest unlike anything else in the universe. Learn more online at www.disneyworld.com/starwars.

WALT DISNEY WORLD Resort: Disney Consumer Products, Wamsutta and JCPenney have launched a distinctive fashion bedding collection inspired by *Walt Disney World* Resort hotels. Now available online at www.JCPenney.com, the line includes ensembles inspired by Disney's Grand Floridian Resort & Spa, Disney's Yacht Club Resort, Disney's Polynesian Resort and Disney's Animal Kingdom Lodge (pictured right). So now you can bring the magic home without swiping the bedding from your resort. (Besides, you were raised better than that.)



DISNEYLAND® Resort Paris: From Lucky the Dinosaur to the Muppet Mobile Lab, a variety of “living characters” have turned heads in recent years during Walt Disney Imagineering “play tests” in Disney Parks around the world. The experimental tradition continued during a recent play test at two *Disneyland* Resort Paris restaurants, where a live-action, life-sized version of Remy from the Disney•Pixar film *Ratatouille* greeted Guests, interacted with his “chef” sidekick and even grooved to some pop tunes. Guests’ enthusiastic response has generated interest from other Disney destinations worldwide, so you never know where or when you may enjoy the surprisingly welcome sight of a rat in a restaurant.



HONG KONG DISNEYLAND® Resort: The “Art of Animation” experience is now open next to the Animation Academy in Town Square at *Hong Kong Disneyland* Park. Filled with sculpted maquettes, revealing storyboards, detailed background paintings and more, the insightful attraction guides Guests through the worlds of “Mickey and Friends,” the “Golden Age of Animation” (featuring such classics as *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs* and *Sleeping Beauty*), the “Renaissance of Disney Animation” (spotlighting films ranging from *The Little Mermaid* to *Aladdin*) and the “Next Generation” (showcasing *Toy Story*, *Ratatouille* and other modern hits). The experience culminates with a *Toy Story 2*-inspired Zoetrope (pictured below right), an eye-catching, figurine-adorned spinning disc that, when lit with a flashing strobe, creates a convincing illusion of animation.



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.

A ROLLER COASTER IN OUTER SPACE



As early work begins on a planned refurbishment of the original Space Mountain® attraction at the Walt Disney World® Resort, Marty shares his memories of the attraction's creation. Watch future editions of Disney Files Magazine for updates about the refurbishment.

Walt Disney had an interesting way of letting you know you were about

to experience a great change in your career. I think my favorite story was John Hench's. He was a top background artist and color stylist in Disney animation (with credits on *Fantasia*, *Dumbo*, *Cinderella*, *Alice in Wonderland*, *Peter Pan*, etc.), until one day, Walt came into his office and told John he wanted him to "work on *Disneyland*®." Without waiting for an answer, as he walked out the door, Walt smiled and said, "And, you're going to like it!"

John also recalled the day in 1964 when Walt brought a team of Imagineers together to discuss a "rocket flight into the cosmos" for the new *Tomorrowland*® area planned for *Disneyland* Park, to open in 1967.

"Walt wanted to build a roller-coaster style ride, but in the dark, which

no one had ever done before," John wrote in his seminal book, *Designing Disney*, published by Disney Editions. "He wanted to have precise control of the lighting and to be able to project moving images on the interior walls."

John's illustration of the now-familiar structure, drawn in 1965, excited the Imagineers and created a huge stir among Disney fans. But there was one major issue: computer systems were not sophisticated enough to help design a ride system to be run in the dark, from a safety standpoint. Once again, technology needed to catch up to Walt Disney's vision.

Flash forward to 1971, and the opening of *Walt Disney World* Resort...without a "thrill ride." My colleagues and I had figured wrong – we thought Florida's audiences would be "older and full of retirees." But it turned out that "the mix" was just about the same as *Disneyland*'s: families with kids, teenagers and young adults looking for a "thrill." *Walt Disney World* needed a thrill ride, and fast!

John Hench and I, and a wonderful artist named Tee Hee (that was his real name!) had created an idea for *Tomorrowland* specifically for RCA, which had developed the communications infrastructure and systems for all of *Walt Disney World*. But even though we had created the concept – taking people *inside* a computer – in concert with RCA and it had the blessing of every vice president in their company, RCA Chairman and CEO Robert Sarnoff said, "No." It was back to the drawing board for our Imagineering team...and that's when *Space Mountain* came into the picture.

A good idea *may* come back to life in the world of Disney, but a great idea *will* find its way into our Parks somewhere in the world, and *Space Mountain* was clearly a great idea. So John Hench and I created a way to make it work for RCA, first by enlarging the whole structure – at the *Magic Kingdom*, it's 183 feet high and 300 feet in diameter (versus 200 at *Disneyland*, *Tokyo Disneyland*®, *Disneyland Paris* and *Hong Kong Disneyland*®). There was a necessary and practical reason for this: we had to create "an RCA story" before and after the trip through space, so we developed "Spaceports" along the long entry walkway, allowing guests to "view out into space" to see the RCA-developed communications satellites of the 70s at work. And as a post-show, we created a moving ramp allowing Guests to view a "home of the future," filled with RCA products for the home – highlighted by an opportunity to "see yourself on TV" as you exited *Space Mountain*.



Concept model

Armed with this complete “package,” including the “thrill ride” itself, we had another day in court with Chairman Sarnoff. This time, we made the sale, and on January 15, 1975, Colonel James Irwin, pilot of the Lunar Module on the Apollo XV mission to the moon, became the first “official” rider.

To accomplish Walt Disney’s goal of a “rocket flight in the dark,” ride designer Bill Watkins completed the first all-computer design of a Disney-version “roller-coaster,” and Disney Legend Bob Gurr created a brand-new vehicle chassis that (as a side note) actually shares its basic design with a retrofitted 1974 Bobsled for *Disneyland’s* Matterhorn! It was also Disney’s first *pure* gravity ride, with no boosters or retarders, advancing the state of the ride-design art with its own computer-controlled speed and safety zone system.

Blending all the ride and show elements required the Imagineers to create what Bob Gurr calls, “the most complicated, sophisticated and accurate model” that had ever been built. All the twists, turns and drops of the ride system are spelled out, as is the location of each and every show light, sound amplifier, the projectors to create asteroids tumbling across the inner surface of the darkened mountain, and dancing, mirror ball-like reflections to depict stars and the endless expanse of space. The result is a sensory experience conveying the convincing illusion of space travel.

But it’s the whole “look” of *Space Mountain* that stamps it as the definitive Theme Park statement about space. Here’s what designer John Hench wrote in *Designing Disney*: “*Space Mountain* begged to be cone shaped; it wanted to echo the expanding spiral of the ride inside. The form housing the ride follows its movement, so that the center of the structure is naturally elevated, like the peak of a mountain being pushed up from the pressure below.

“In the construction of the building, the engineers selected pre-cast concrete and steel T beams for the main roof structure.

They wanted the beams facing inside the building, but I wanted them facing outside, to provide a smooth surface in the interior on which we could project images.

The distance between the T beams varies, from narrow at the top to wider at the bottom; on the cone-shaped roof, this gives an appropriately dynamic effect of forced perspective. The resulting exterior design is strong, simple and visually effective.

“*Space Mountain* has an abstract, contemporary form and tells its story architecturally. The ride is above all an experience of speed, enhanced by the controlled lighting and projected moving images. But it evokes such ideas as the mystery of outer space, the excitement of setting out on a journey and the thrill of the unknown.”

To each of us at Imagineering who played a role in the birth of that first *Space Mountain* attraction in 1975, we knew we were fulfilling Walt Disney’s vision. And it only took us a decade to accomplish!



Marty, right, with John Hench

SPACE MOUNTAIN

The attraction’s first VIP rider

from the book *The Disney Mountains* by Jason Surrell

“Just before we opened, Edna Disney, the late Roy O. Disney’s widow, came down for a visit, and she insisted on riding,” Marty Sklar recalls. “She was eighty-four year old, and I remember distinctly that when she got off the ride, Donn Tatum, Chairman of Disney, ran up to the vehicle and said, ‘Edna, Edna, are you all right?’ She kind of ruffled her feathers, if I can put it that way, and looked at him and said, ‘My sister and I used to ride all the roller coasters!’ She did not say, of course, that that was sixty years ago! Eighty-four years old...and she loved it. *Space Mountain* had the official Disney seal of approval.”

The attraction’s first Guest riders

from the book *Designing Disney* by John Hench

“They were middle-aged and laughing among themselves ... As they took off, I walked over to the exit where the ride ends to wait for them. As their vehicle came to a stop, there was dead silence. Some seemed to be hyperventilating. One woman stirred first and got out of the car. She knelt down and loudly kissed the carpet. The others got out of the car and started up the exit ramp. I followed them about halfway up the ramp; they broke into spontaneous weak-in-the-knees laughter, patting each other on the back. It came to me then that these people had not felt so alive in years as they did at that moment.”

The Disney logo is written in its classic white script font against a dark red, textured background. To the right of the logo, a large, detailed illustration of a pirate skull is shown. The skull is yellowish-brown with a red bandana tied around its forehead. A cutlass is positioned diagonally across the skull, with its hilt at the top left and its blade pointing towards the bottom right. The background of the entire page is a dark red with a mottled, painterly texture.

DIVERSIONS

enjoying Disney between trips

JACK WILL BE BACK!

Fourth *Pirates* film among major studio announcements

In a decision that has moviegoers reaching for their eye-liner and practicing their one-liners, Johnny Depp has agreed to reprise his role of Captain Jack Sparrow in a fourth installment of the *Pirates of the Caribbean* film series (release date to be determined). Producer Jerry Bruckheimer will return to oversee the project, building on a trilogy that earned a combined \$2.6 billion at the box office.

Additional a-Depp-tations

Depp will continue making himself at home in the house of mouse as he steps into the roles of Tonto in Bruckheimer's big-screen adaptation of the classic television series "The Lone Ranger" and the Mad Hatter in Tim Burton's version of *Alice in Wonderland*, both in development. In related *Wonderland* news, Burton's production has signed Anne Hathaway (*The Princess Diaries*) and Helena Bonham Carter (*Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street*) to play the roles of the White and Red Queens respectively.

Accelerating *Cars*

It appears that Mater and Lightning McQueen's return to the big screen in Disney•Pixar's *Cars 2* will hit the gas a bit, speeding into theaters a year earlier than originally planned. The new summer 2011 release in theaters and *Disney Digital 3-D™* will mirror the planned opening date of Cars Land, an expansive addition in the works for *Disney's California Adventure®* Park at the *Disneyland®* Resort in Anaheim. The *Cars* crew also stars in a series of animated shorts, appearing in theaters and on television's Disney Channel.

In other Disney movie news...

- Fans won't have to wait long to *Race to Witch Mountain*, starring Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson (*Gameplan*) in a re-imagining of Disney's 1975 hit *Escape to Witch Mountain*, as the film will open in theaters on March 13.
- *Earth*, the first motion picture from the newly created DisneyNature label, is scheduled to debut in U.S. theaters this Earth Day, April 22. Learn more about this and other planned DisneyNature releases at www.disney.com/nature.
- A sequel to the 1982 Disney classic *Tron* is in the works.
- Oprah Winfrey has signed on to voice the mother of the princess in the Christmas 2009 hand-drawn animated feature *The Princess and the Frog*.
- Jim Carrey (*Yes Man*) will make his Disney debut in the role of Scrooge (at five different ages) and all three ghosts of Christmas in *Disney's A Christmas Carol*, to be created in 3-D performance capture.
- Producer Jerry Bruckheimer will reunite with actor Nicolas Cage in three upcoming projects: *G-FORCE*, *The Sorcerer's Apprentice* and a third installment of the *National Treasure* series.

NEW BOOKS SPRING TO LIFE

New releases take a unique look at animation

Dancing hippos, blank pages and neglected men are among the facets of Disney animation explored in three new books from Disney Editions. *Disney Files Magazine* caught up with our publishing friends on New York City's Fifth Avenue to get the inside scoop.

Hippo in a Tutu: Dancing in Disney Animation (February)

The ballet composed for hippo ballerinas and their crocodile cavaliers to perform in Walt Disney's 1940 animated classic *Fantasia* is among the most beloved scenes in Disney-animation history. Set to Ponchielli's "Dance of the Hours," the sequence is a deeply informed, affectionate parody of a famous scene choreographed by George Balanchine for the 1938 film *Goldwyn Follies*. (Mention this to the *Magic Kingdom* Guests beside you the next time you see the *Fantasia* float in the SpectroMagic parade. If that doesn't impress, throw in the fact that *Goldwyn Follies* starred Vera Zorina, the choreographer's wife. That'll dazzle 'em!)

Using this sequence as a point of departure, author Mindy Aloff examines the roles that dance, dancing and choreography play in Disney-animated shorts and features. The vibrantly illustrated pages analyze and celebrate the art of dance in the animators' work, while also looking behind the scenes to find out how Disney's animated dance sequences came to life.

The Disney Sketchbook: 1928-2008 (April)

"*The Disney Sketchbook* was an idea by Ken Shue (Vice President of Global Art & Design for Disney Publishing Worldwide)," Disney Editions Senior Editor Jody Revenson told *Disney Files Magazine*. "He said to me one day, 'What if Walt had a blank book that was passed around from artist to artist through all the generations of animators, showing the influence of one generation upon the next?'"

Intrigued by this opportunity to delve into the Animation archives in search of never-published images, Jody enthusiastically embraced the project.

The end result is a unique art book that delivers a feast of eye candy developed during more than 80 magical years of Disney animation. Each page of the coffee-table book is designed to provide the viewer with a visual survey of Disney drawings, juxtaposed in a context never before imagined. Brief textual elements allow current Disney animators to reflect on the inspiration of the artists who preceded them, making *The Disney Sketchbook* an insightful addition to any collector's library.

Disney's Neglected Prince (April)

The art of Disney's knights in shining armor (and loincloths) has been surprisingly unexplored in the publishing world. Until now.

Searching for the next great concept for a Disney art book,

Jody looked at her current development slate, filled with titles celebrating Disney's beloved dogs and cats, and headline-grabbing princesses. And then it hit her. What about the guys?

"It would certainly be a book I would want to see," Jody said, revealing one of the delightfully self-indulgent perks of her job. "The title came to me immediately, as well as the decision to keep it 'damsel-free.'"

The Animation Research Library expressed immediate interest in Jody's idea, offering images of Phillip, Eric, Tarzan and others unseen to eyes beyond the walls of the Walt Disney Studios.

"Of course, even if they're not born a prince (Charming), or become a prince (Aladdin), we feel they're all Disney royalty and should be in it," Jody said, justifying the inclusion of such hand-drawn hunks as John Smith and Phoebus.

"This was definitely a labor of love," Jody added. "And it has a bit of an adult edge that I'd like to bring to more Disney Editions books."

(The *Disney Files* staff offers another "edgy" concept: *Disney's Absentee Mothers*. Where was Mom when Prince Charming met the girl who fit the slipper, when Ariel became part of our world or when Belle learned to love a beast? Inquiring minds want to know.)



VAULT

Disney

by Disney-history
expert Jim Korkis



WHAT WILL YOU CELEBRATE?

How about some Disney-history milestones?

“When you think about it, there’s so much in life worth celebrating.” That’s the sentiment of a new campaign surrounding a Disney Parks celebration of celebrations. The places where dreams come true are helping Guests celebrate life’s many milestones like never before, marking birthdays, anniversaries, personal triumphs and more in grand Disney style.

What you celebrate is up to you. When I was a kid, my brothers and I celebrated every time Mom and Dad took us to *Disneyland*® Park. It felt like a birthday and Christmas all at once. But if you need a good reason to celebrate as you head to the Parks, I’m here to help.

My Disney-history records reveal a multitude of milestones for every day of the year, and I’ve picked a fact a day to get you through March and April. For more, just type “this day in Disney history” into your favorite Internet search engine, and you’re sure to find something to celebrate.

March 1: (1924) “Alice’s Day at Sea,” the first cartoon from the new Disney Brothers Studio, debuts.

March 2: (1976) The *Walt Disney World*® Resort welcomes its 50 millionth Guest.

March 3: (1995) The *Indiana Jones*™ Adventure: Temple of the Forbidden Eye attraction opens at *Disneyland* Park.

March 4: (1914) Disney Legend and animator Ward Kimball is born in Minneapolis, Minn.

March 5: (1983) The original Journey into Imagination attraction opens at *Epcot*®.

March 6: (1963) Recording session takes place for the legendary Sherman Brothers song “There’s a Great Big Beautiful Tomorrow,” to be used in the Carousel of Progress attraction at the 1964 World’s Fair.

March 7: (1942) Former Disney CEO Michael Eisner is born in Mount Kisco, N.Y.

March 8: (2008) Kidani, a baby zebra named in honor of Kidani Village at Disney’s Animal Kingdom Villas, is born at the *Walt Disney World* Resort.

March 9: (1984) Touchstone Pictures releases its first film, *Splash*.

March 10: (1938) The animated short “The Old Mill,” which broke new ground by introducing the multiplane camera, earns two *Academy Awards*®.

March 11: (1977) The animated film *The Many Adventures of Winnie the Pooh* debuts.

March 12: (1996) Hazel George, Walt Disney’s nurse and confidante, who also wrote Disney music under the pseudonym “Gil George,” passes away. (Don’t celebrate the death, of course. Celebrate the life.)

March 13: (1968) *The Love Bug* opens in theaters.

March 14: (1935) Donald Duck makes his first appearance in the Mickey Mouse daily comic strip.

March 15: (1910) Nick Stewart, the voice of Br’er Bear in the *Song of the South* movie and *Splash Mountain*® attraction, is born.

March 16: (1934) The animated short “Three Little Pigs” wins an *Oscar*®.

March 17: (1956) The “Disneyland” television show wins an *Emmy Award*® for “Best Action or Adventure Series.”

March 18: (1955) Groundbreaking ceremony takes place (at 11:15 a.m.) for the *Disneyland* Hotel in Anaheim, Calif.

March 19: (1953) Disney’s “True-Life Adventures” short “Water Birds” wins an *Oscar*.

March 20: (1948) The song “Zip-A-Dee-Doo-Dah” wins an *Oscar*.

March 21: (1975) Mission to Mars attraction opens at *Disneyland* Park.

March 22: (1975) The Lake Buena Vista Village (known today as *Downtown Disney*® Marketplace) opens at the *Walt Disney World* Resort.



March 23: (1967) The animated short “Scrooge McDuck and Money,” Uncle Scrooge’s first major animated appearance, debuts.

March 24: (1901) Disney Legend and animator Ub Iwerks is born in Kansas City, Mo.

March 25: (1996) Filmmaker and creative executive John Lasseter wins a special *Academy Award*® for Special Achievement for his “inspired leadership of the Disney•Pixar Toy Story Team.”

March 26: (1955) The song “The Ballad of Davy Crockett” peaks at No. 1 on the pop singles chart and stays there for five weeks.

March 27: (1901) Disney Legend and comic book artist Carl Barks, creator of Uncle Scrooge, is born in Merrill, Ore.

March 28: (1987) The first Disney Store opens in Glendale, Calif. (And Jim Korkis is one of the first in line early in the morning to purchase merchandise!)

March 29: (1955) The Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railway signs a contract to lend the “Santa Fe” name to *Disneyland*® trains.

March 30: (1913) Disney Legend, animator and artist Marc Davis is born in Bakersfield, Calif.

March 31: (1958): The Grand Canyon Diorama opens along the *Disneyland* Railroad.

April 1: (1995) *Disney Files* Magazine Editor Ryan March is born. (April Fools!) Seriously, *Disney’s Blizzard Beach* Water Park opens at the *Walt Disney World*® Resort. (And months later, Ryan graduates college.)

April 2: (1940) Walt Disney Productions offers stock shares to the public for the first time.

April 3: (1994) Disney President and Chief Operating Officer Frank Wells passes away in a helicopter crash. (Another *life* worth celebrating.)

April 4: (1990) The Rock ‘n’ Roll Beach Club opens at *Pleasure Island*® at the *Walt Disney World* Resort.

April 5: (1964) Julie Andrews wins a Best Actress *Oscar*® for *Mary Poppins*.

April 6: (2007) The Gran Fiesta Tour with The Three Caballeros opens in the Mexico pavilion at *Epcot*®.

April 7: (1957) Tom Nabbe, the first to portray Tom Sawyer at *Disneyland* Park and an eventual *Walt Disney World* leader, appears on the cover of *Parade Magazine* as the “luckiest boy in the world.”

April 8: (2008) A special carousel horse celebrating Disney Legend Julie Andrews debuts on King Arthur Carrousel at *Disneyland* Park.

April 9: (2002) The City of Los Angeles declares Disney’s El Capitan Theater an historic landmark.

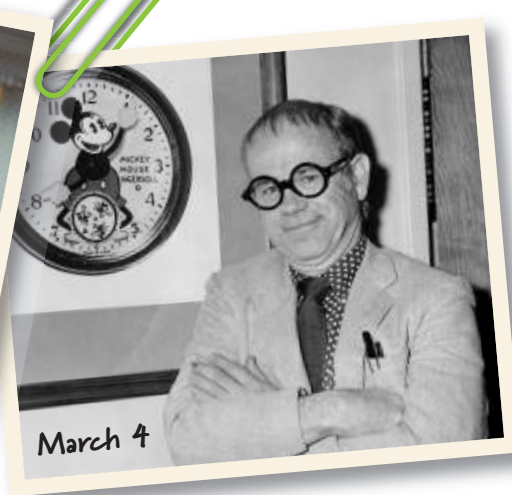
April 10: (1992) The Disney movie *Newsies* (from the director who would later bring you the “High School Musical” craze) debuts.

April 11: (2006) Hollywood marks 80 years of Winnie the Pooh by presenting the silly old bear with a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame.

April 12: (1925) Roy O. Disney marries Edna Francis in Los Angeles. (In 1930, they will have a son, Roy E. Disney.)

April 13: (1965) Disney Legends and songwriters Richard and Robert Sherman win a *Grammy Award*® for Best Original Score for *Mary Poppins*.

April 14: (2008): Disney Legend and animator Ollie Johnston, the last of Walt’s “Nine Old Men,” passes away, ending another life worthy of celebration.



April 15: (1983) *Tokyo Disneyland*® Park opens.

April 16: (2001) Disney’s Animal Kingdom Lodge opens.

April 17: (1987) Mark V Monorails debut at *Disneyland* Park.

April 18: (1983) The Disney Channel debuts.

April 19: (1961) *Disneyland* Park welcomes its 25 millionth Guest.

April 20: (1991) The Sci-Fi Dine-In Theater restaurant opens at the *Disney-MGM Studios* (known today as *Disney’s Hollywood Studios*™).

April 21: (2004) *Beauty and the Beast* becomes the sixth longest-running musical in Broadway history.

April 23: (1957) The “Midget Autopia” opens at *Disneyland* Park for children too small for the Park’s other Autopia attractions.

April 24: (1989) The “All New Mickey Mouse Club,” which would later star such standouts as Britney Spears and Christina Aguilera, debuts.

April 25: (2000) Phil Collins’ *Tarzan* love song “You’ll Be in My Heart” recognized as the year’s “Most Performed Song” from Motion Pictures during the *ASCAP Awards*®.

April 26: (1994) The original Broadway Cast Recording of Disney’s *Beauty and the Beast* debuts in stores.

April 27: (2006) U.S. Postal Service releases “The Art of Disney: Romance” stamp series.

April 28: (1997) King Stefan’s Banquet Hall restaurant at the *Walt Disney World* Resort becomes Cinderella’s Royal Table.

April 29: (1957) Actress Shirley Temple Black opens the original Sleeping Beauty Castle walk-through attraction at *Disneyland* Park. (The later-revamped and eventually closed attraction recently re-opened to Guests.)

April 30: (1939) A specially commissioned Mickey Mouse color cartoon debuts at the Nabisco Pavilion at New York World’s Fair.



PHOTO FILES

from your cameras
to our pages

And He's Out

Nobody said there'd be this much walking.



After an adventurous day at Disney's Animal Kingdom® Theme Park, young Alex, part of the Goldenhar family of California, Members since 2003, enjoys a pizza-induced siesta at Wolfgang Puck Express®.

Apparently, parents aren't keen on naming "favorites" among their kids. They're supposed to love all of them equally and unconditionally, or forever hold their peace. Or something like that. Fortunately, that rule doesn't apply to the *Disney Files* staff, so we're unapologetically highlighting our favorite* Member kids.

*Favorite kids subject to change without notice

Earning Her Ducktorate

I'm going in!



Many have wondered why Donald has such a raspy voice, but only Stephanie, part of the Connor family of Massachusetts, Members since 1994, took it upon herself to perform an examination.



Friends of Flannel

Why do I let Mom talk me into these things?

The things I do for these girls...

Flannel in Florida. Brilliant!



The Clark family of Georgia, Members since 2002, rock some sweet matching pajamas as they celebrate the holidays at Disney's Vero Beach Resort. (Just because they're adults doesn't mean they can't dress like kids.)

FILE IT AWAY

The past few months have seen recent editions of *Disney Files Magazine* join Members on vacations that we, the staff, could only dream of enjoying. (Not that we're bitter.) Here's a look at some of the first Members to respond to our newest editorial gimmick. (We mean, "enhancement.")

Send photos of *you* traveling with the magazine, and you could see yourself in this space.



Debbie and Gabe Travers of California, Members since 2002, atop the Notre Dame Cathedral during an *Adventures by Disney* stop in Paris with Adventure Guide Andrew Santelli (left)



Barbara Taylor of California, Member since 2005, on the shores of Lake Tahoe (Hope the magazine didn't get wet. Kind of ruins the online-auction value.)



Erin Bauserman, part of the Bauserman family of Illinois, Members since 1992, in her hotel room after a long day exploring Vienna, Austria



Kamilla Boerema of Tennessee, Member since 2007, visiting a public school in the village of Zongo during a trip to western Africa

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. If you can make the staff laugh or cry, even better!

BACK FILES

Disney through the rear-view mirror



The planned Disney Resort on the Hawaiian island of O'ahu continues a longstanding love affair between Disney and the Aloha State. This rare photo from the Walt Disney Archives, believed to have been shot in 1934, captures Walt and Lillian Disney draped in floral leis during one of their multiple visits to the tropical paradise.