

Disney FILES

MAGAZINE



WELCOME HOME



If *Disney Files* Magazine was a grocery store tabloid, the headline on this edition's cover may read: **Giant Reptile to Terrorize China!**

Of course, we'd never resort to such sensationalism, even if we *are* ridiculously excited about the imposing star of the Roaring Rapids attraction in the works for Shanghai Disneyland (pages 3-8). We take ourselves far too seriously for such nonsense.

Wait a minute. What am I saying? This isn't exactly a medical journal, and anyone who's ever read the fine print at the bottom of this page knows that, if there's one thing we embrace in the *Disney Files* newsroom, it's nonsense!

So at the risk of ending our pursuit of a Pulitzer (close as we were), I introduce this issue with a series of headlines crafted with all the journalistic integrity of rags reporting the births of alien babies, celebrity babies...and alien-celebrity babies.

Who wore it best? Disney's Beach Club Villas vs. the Brady family! (Page 13)

Evil empire mounting Disney Parks takeover! (Pages 19-20)

Prince Harry sending soldiers into Walt Disney World battle! (Page 21)

An Affleck faces peril at sea! (Page 24)

Mickey sells Pluto on the street! (Page 27)

Underage driver goes for joy ride...doesn't wear seatbelt! (Page 30)

Somewhere in Oregon, my journalism professors weep. All of us at Disney Vacation Club wish you a happy holiday season and a "sensational" new year.

Welcome home,

Ryan March
Disney Files Editor



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The year that was... and how we plan to top it!

**By Ken Potrock, Senior Vice President and General Manager,
Disney Vacation Club and Adventures by Disney**

There's something very Disney about cherishing the past while looking eagerly ahead to the future. Whether you're walking down a nostalgic Main Street,

U.S.A. on your way to Tomorrowland or flipping through an old photo album while planning your next vacation, that balance of "what was" and "what's next" is as quintessential to the Disney experience as wishing upon a star or refusing to grow up.

It may be an even more integral part of the experience here at Disney Vacation Club, where even our most tenured Member families have more than a quarter-century of memory-making still ahead. Our community was founded on the idea of renewing traditions while creating new ones – returning to the places that sparked your imagination as a kid while also enjoying vacations and experiences you may never have imagined possible.

While our Disney Vacation Club Cast family is charged with keeping our collective eye on the road ahead, we too embrace the occasional opportunity to glance in the rear-view mirror. And this past year in particular is worth a look back.

I'll remember 2015 for being the year Disney's Polynesian Villas & Bungalows became "the third jewel in our monorail crown," the year Membership Magic grew to become much more than a collection of extras and the year that saw more Members than ever explore the world beyond our neighborhood – taking advantage of a dramatic expansion of exchange options.

This was a year in which Member Services redefined great service, Member Cruise voyages redefined great itineraries and "Neighborhood Beach Bash" parties at Disney's Typhoon Lagoon Water Park redefined great Member gatherings.

As easy as it would be to fill the rest of this column with memories of 2015 – from Member movie screenings to Adventures by Disney departures for Members and their Guests – I'm simply too excited about the year ahead to spend too much time reflecting.

The new year promises to be one for the ages at Disney vacation destinations across the globe, from the continuation of the Disneyland Resort Diamond Celebration in California to the completion of Disney Springs and new Disney's Animal Kingdom nighttime experiences at Walt Disney World Resort in Florida to the opening of the highly anticipated Shanghai Disney Resort in mainland China.

And not to be outdone by the previously mentioned milestones, you may also be aware that 2016 will mark the 25th anniversary of Disney Vacation Club. We see this, not just as a silver-anniversary celebration, but as a sterling opportunity to elevate the Member experience like never before.

I've been sworn to secrecy on the details, but I can tell you that plans call for exclusive events and experiences (including the recently announced Member Cruise from New York), enhancements to the vacation-planning experience, new ways to share your Member pride, and fun surprises and unique privileges designed to delight Members both on vacation and at home. We'll share details early next year in a variety of places, from disneyvacationclub.com and the "Member Insider" email newsletter to our social media outlets ([Facebook.com/DisneyVacationClub](https://www.facebook.com/DisneyVacationClub) and [Pinterest.com/DisneyVacationClub](https://www.pinterest.com/DisneyVacationClub)) and the spring edition of *Disney Files* Magazine.

In the meantime, all of us at Disney Vacation Club wish you and your family a happy and healthy holiday season, and we look forward to helping you make 2016 your most memorable year yet!





SHANGHAI
Disney RESORT
上海迪士尼度假区

Shanghai, China: Shanghai Disneyland (a Magic Kingdom-style Theme Park with six themed lands); two themed hotels; an international shopping, dining and entertainment district; and a tranquil, lakeside park are scheduled to open in spring 2016 as part of Shanghai Disney Resort, the first Disney vacation destination in mainland China.

“We are building something truly special here in Shanghai that not only showcases the best of Disney’s storytelling but also celebrates and incorporates China’s incredibly rich heritage to create a one-of-a-kind destination that will delight and entertain the people of China for generations to come,” Disney CEO Bob Iger said of the joint venture with Shanghai Shendi Group. “We are taking everything we’ve learned from our six decades of exceeding expectations, along with our relentless innovation and famous creativity, to create a truly magical place that is both authentically Disney and distinctly Chinese.”

Disney Vacation Club Members enjoyed an inside look at the project during the Aug. 24-28 Member Cruise, attending a revealing presentation titled “Creating Shanghai Disney Resort” with Walt Disney Imagineering Shanghai Executive Creative Director Lori Coltrin. *Disney Files* Magazine was on hand to take copious notes and has continued to gather insights as new details have become available. Here’s what we’ve learned...





Artist Rendering — Proposed

Shanghai Disneyland

✦ **Mickey Avenue:** Like Main Street, U.S.A., this richly themed thoroughfare will welcome Guests to the Park and serve as its carefully orchestrated “first scene.” Replacing the traditional Victorian theme is a setting inspired by the colorful personalities of Mickey Mouse and his pals, who will be on hand to greet Guests. Among the street’s many merchants will be Avenue M Arcade, a signature store featuring the Park’s largest selection of gifts and collectibles (as well as a “richly themed” checkout area inspired by Scrooge McDuck); Mickey & Pals Market Café, featuring four themed dining rooms (Mickey’s Galley, Tony’s from *Lady and the Tramp*, Daisy’s Café and *The Three Caballeros*); Remy’s Patisserie, a French- and *Ratatouille*-inspired bakery (look for rat-sized scaffolds and ladders lining the walls); and Sweethearts Confectionery (depicted in the rendering above), a sweet shop representing the childhood home of Minnie Mouse.

✦ **Gardens of Imagination:** Positioned as the Park’s “hub” and featuring some of the Park’s most traditionally Chinese designs, this garden-filled land includes a *Fantasia*-themed Carousel, the classic Dumbo the Flying Elephant attraction and the “Garden of the Twelve Friends,” which re-imagines animals of the Chinese zodiac as Disney and Disney•Pixar characters. The gardens will offer prime viewing areas for castle stage

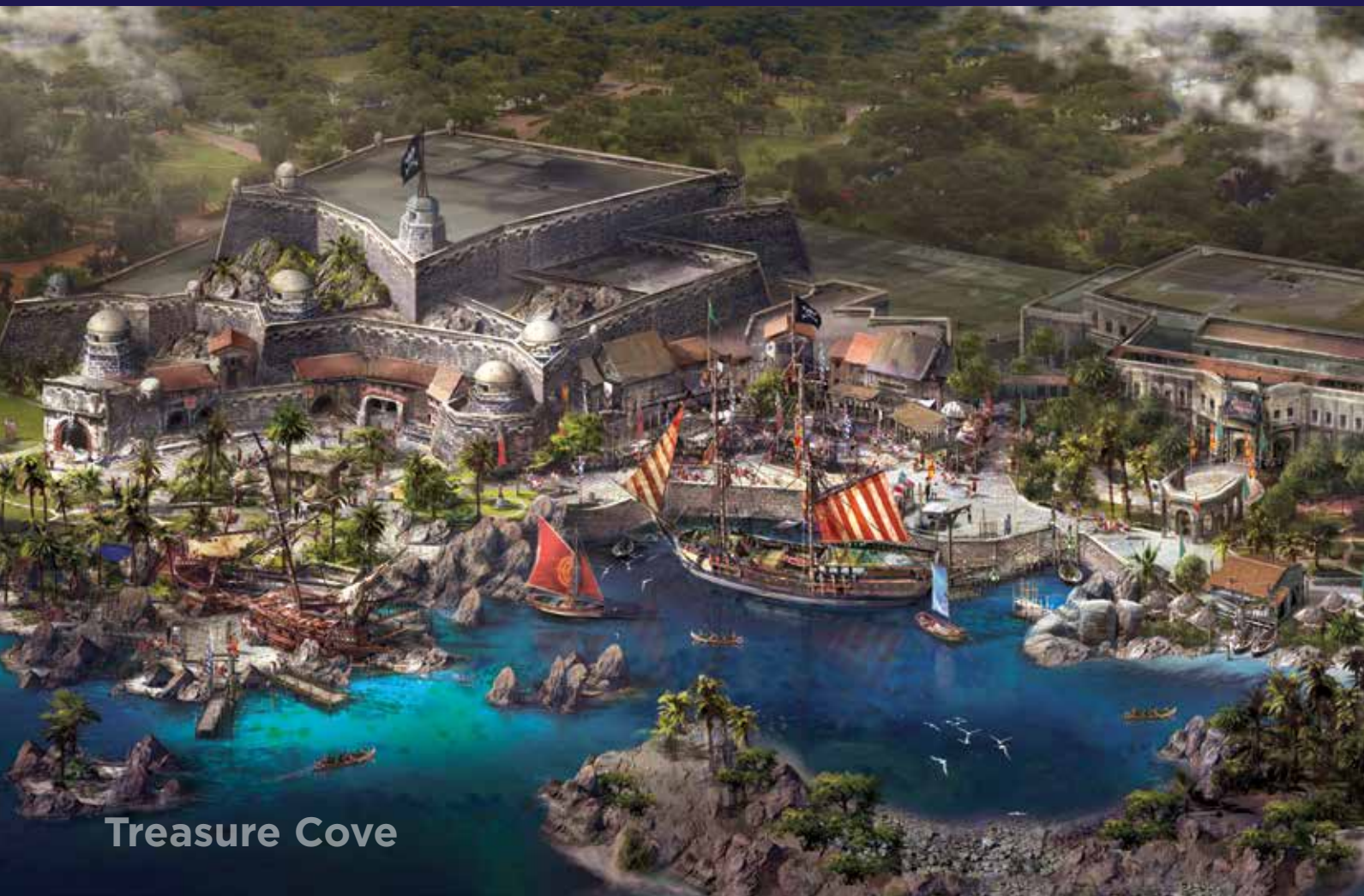
shows, the “Mickey’s Storybook Express” parade (which travels the longest route of any Disney parade) and “Ignite the Dream: A Nighttime Spectacular of Magic and Light.” Also look for the Wandering Moon Teahouse, a quick-service food-and-beverage location honoring the restless creative spirit of China’s wandering poets.

✦ **Fantasyland:** Behind the multi-princess-themed Enchanted Storybook Castle (the tallest, largest and most interactive castle ever created for a Disney Park) is the Park’s largest land. Here, Guests will explore the mine where a million diamonds shine aboard the Seven Dwarfs Mine Train, soar over London on Peter Pan’s Flight (featuring a new ride system), take a spin aboard Winnie the Pooh’s honey pots (“Hunny” pots if you spell like a silly ol’ bear) and navigate an Alice in Wonderland maze (inspired by Tim Burton’s cinematic take on the story). Guests also will embark on a Voyage to the Crystal Grotto, an enchanting new excursion that celebrates classic Disney stories as it travels the waters of Fantasyland, culminating with a finale never before seen in a Disney castle. Other highlights include the Evergreen Playhouse (home to the live show “Frozen: A Sing-Along Celebration”); and Tangled Tree Tavern, a restaurant inspired by the hit animated film’s Snuggly Duckling pub.



Adventure Isle

Artist Renderings — Proposed



Treasure Cove

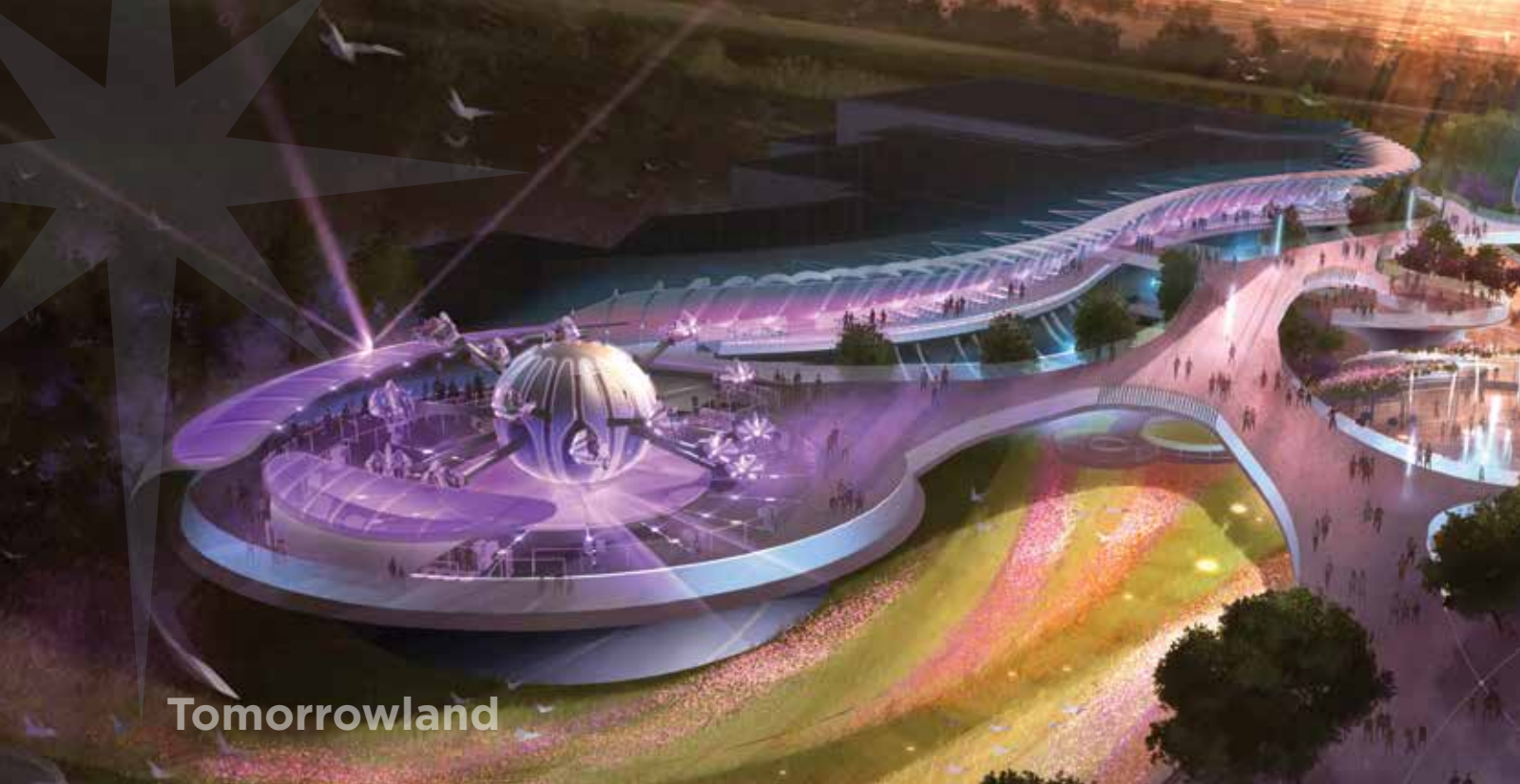
上海迪士尼度假区

✦ **Adventure Isle:** Turn right at the end of Mickey Avenue to explore the Park's most exotic lands, beginning with Adventure Isle, a newly discovered lost world filled with hidden treasures. The mighty Roaring Mountain will tower over Guests as they blaze their own trails and search for tribal relics at Camp Discovery, travel around the world on Soaring Over the Horizon (this global take on the hit Soarin' attraction also will land in California and Florida in 2016) and embark on a thrilling rafting adventure on Roaring Rapids, featuring a memorable encounter with a giant reptilian creature named Q'araq (seen on our cover). Also at Adventure Isle is "Tarzan: Call of the Jungle," a live show featuring Chinese acrobats. Adventurous dining awaits at Tribal Table, a festive restaurant modeled after an ancient gathering house in the Arbori village.

✦ **Treasure Cove:** The nearby Treasure Cove will be Disney's first pirate-themed land, a place to join the adventures of Captain Jack Sparrow and Davy Jones. At the first-of-its-kind Pirates of the Caribbean – Battle for the Sunken Treasure attraction, cutting-edge innovations in robotics, animation, set design and multimedia combine to tell an original story. The attraction will employ advanced technology that allows the boats to spin, move and react smartly to their position, triggering action and synchronized music as they travel through breathtaking scenes and lively battles. Treasure-hunting Guests also will discover "Eye of the Storm: Captain Jack's Stunt Spectacular" at the El Teatro Fandango; board a pirate ship; paddle through the scenic cove on Explorer Canoes; seek refreshment in the Shipwreck Shore water play area and dine inside the aforementioned Pirates of the Caribbean – Battle for the Sunken Treasure attraction at Barbossa's Bounty, a lively grog shop specializing in spicy barbeque.



Pirates of the Caribbean – Battle for the Sunken Treasure



Tomorrowland

✦ **Tomorrowland:** Located across the Park from Treasure Cove is Tomorrowland, featuring an original design and new attractions celebrating the hope, optimism and potential of the future in Shanghai. Guests will encounter Stitch (engaging in some unscripted banter with the lovable alien), travel to infinity and beyond aboard Space Cruiser vehicles at the new Buzz Lightyear Planet Rescue attraction (the next generation of the popular Buzz Lightyear Astro Blaster/Space Ranger Spin format, with a new storyline and a new, interactive targeting system), break the bonds of gravity on Jet Packs (a new twist on the rotating, hub-and-spoke ride system enjoyed at Dumbo the Flying Elephant and other classic attractions, this time freeing Guests' legs to dangle above an energy sphere as they control the altitude of their jet pack) and dine at the Stargazer Grill. The land's biggest attraction will be TRON Lightcycle Power Run, a coaster-style attraction featuring a color-shifting canopy and fast-moving trains of two-wheeled Lightcycles that promise to deliver one of the most thrilling adventures at any Disney Park. At Star Wars Launch Bay, Guests will meet heroes and villains of the saga, visit iconic set pieces, view props and memorabilia, and experience the Skywalker story through a state-of-the-art cinematic experience. (See page 21 for details about new Star Wars Launch Bay attractions at Disneyland Park in California and Disney's Hollywood Studios in Florida.) And at Marvel Universe, Guests will attend a multimedia mission briefing before getting up close with popular Marvel superheroes and taking on the role of comic book artist.





Fly through Tomorrowland with your smartphone's QR code reader:



Artist Rendering — Proposed

Beyond the Park

- ✦ **Hotels:** The 420-room Shanghai Disneyland Hotel will be an elegant, Art Nouveau-inspired resort with a touch of Disney magic and inspiration, while the 800-room Toy Story Hotel will immerse Guests in a world inspired by the Disney•Pixar *Toy Story* films.
- ✦ **Disneytown:** Located adjacent to the Theme Park, this international shopping, dining and entertainment district will blend the lure of a timeless village with the excitement of an international crossroads. No admission fee will be required to explore Disneytown, where charming pedestrian streets will lead to distinctive dining destinations, unique shops and a world-class theatre. Disneytown's Lakeshore will offer sunset views and waterfront dining, while the centrally located Marketplace will be home to musicians and other live entertainers, along with a collection of shops that'll include an expansive World of Disney store. Next to the Marketplace, Guests will discover the bustling international ambience of Spice Alley, a hot spot for diverse Asian cuisines in an environment that aims to be equal parts casual and romantic, with intimate, festively lit streets dotted by al fresco dining destinations. Upscale shopping will await Guests along Broadway Boulevard, where stylish boutiques will carry popular labels and trendsetting products. At Broadway Plaza, the Art Deco-inspired Walt Disney Grand Theatre will present headline-grabbing stage shows, including the global premiere of the Mandarin version of the highest-grossing Broadway show of all time: *The Lion King*.
- ✦ **Wishing Star Park:** Near Disneytown will be Wishing Star Park, with walking paths and gardens positioned alongside a glittering lake.

Unlock more images with your smartphone's QR code reader:





Counting on Christmas Enjoying the holidays by the numbers

Walt Disney World Resort: 'Tis the season for Member letters asking the *Disney Files* staff for insights about holiday décor around the neighborhood, from, "What's the theme of this year's gingerbread display at Disney's Contemporary Resort?" to "How long does it take to decorate the giant gingerbread house at Disney's Grand Floridian Resort & Spa?" Armed with tape measures, calculators and nerdy little notepads, the staff gathered answers to even the most obscure questions, placing them here in the form of a game. Give yourself a point for each of the first four questions you answer correctly, two points if you correctly answer the bonus question, and then see how you measure up against our hastily made-up chart. (Oh, and as for this year's Disney's Contemporary Resort gingerbread display? While the ingredients may be fresh, the theme is *Frozen*.)

1. About how many feet tall is the Disney's Grand Floridian Resort & Spa gingerbread house? (1 point)

- a) 10
- b) 13
- c) 16
- d) 19

2. About how many hours do Cast Members spend decorating that same gingerbread display? (1 point)

- a) 16
- b) 160
- c) 260
- d) 360

3. How many feet tall is the Christmas tree in the Jambo House lobby at Disney's Animal Kingdom Lodge? (1 point)

- a) 35
- b) 40
- c) 45
- d) 50

4. How many feet tall is the Christmas tree outside Disney's Contemporary Resort? (1 point)

- a) 40
- b) 50
- c) 60
- d) 70

BONUS: Which of the following is the biggest number? (2 points)

- a) The total number of Walt Disney World Christmas trees
- b) The total number of Walt Disney World Christmas wreaths
- c) The number of nightly performers in the Epcot Candlelight Processional
- d) The pounds of honey in the first question's gingerbread house

ANSWER: b: 1,314 (If you guessed "a," you were very close. We're told there are just over 1,300 Walt Disney World Christmas trees. Cast Members use about 1,050 pounds of honey in that gingerbread house, and the Epcot Candlelight Processional features about 800 performers nightly.)

Total your points to see where you rank:

- 0-1:** The elf who fell off the shelf
- 2:** Merrily mediocre
- 3:** Joyful and triumphant
- 4:** Holiday gifted
- 5 or more:** Jingle genius!



ANSWERS: 1 (c), 2 (b), 3 (c), 4 (d)

Did you know? Thanks to the latest enhancements to disneyvacationclub.com, Members can now quickly and easily access all available Points Charts within the site's "Plan Vacations" section. The online format keeps Members connected to the latest information while also supporting Disney's commitment to conservation by minimizing the volume of printed-and-shipped materials.

Insights in action

Member feedback drives continued evolution of disneyvacationclub.com

DisneyVacationClub.com: Disney Vacation Club recently debuted the latest enhancements to disneyvacationclub.com (formerly DVCMember.com), with more changes in the pipeline for the months and years ahead.

Inspired by Member feedback and developed as part of Membership Magic, the improvements aim to help Members plan their vacations and manage their Membership more easily than ever.

Perhaps most visible of the site's latest enhancements are a re-imagined home page (where Disney Vacation Club neighborhood images boldly welcome you "home") and the introduction of a "mobile-friendly responsive design" that automatically optimizes the site for easy viewing on tablets and smartphones.

Enhanced vacation-planning functions range from an improved Disney Vacation Club Resort Availability Tool (allowing Members to quickly identify available resorts to accommodate their desired party size, vacation dates and vacation point allotment) and a Points Calendar Calculator to a new destinations map (highlighting more

than 2,500 destinations across the globe) and a completely transformed Member dashboard.

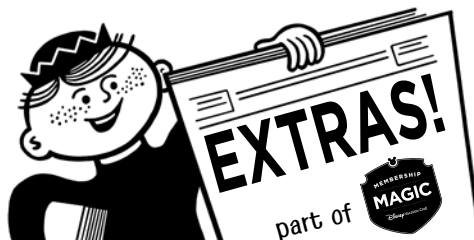
To help Members get the most out of those trips, the enhanced site now has the ability to sort special offers and experiences by location, allowing Members to easily review options available at their chosen vacation destination through the new "Member Benefits & More" tab.

As this edition of *Disney Files* Magazine hits the press, Disney Vacation Club is refining the next wave of enhancements to the site, with new functionality scheduled to debut in 2016 as our community celebrates its milestone 25th anniversary. Watch disneyvacationclub.com, the Disney Vacation Club Facebook and Pinterest Pages ([Facebook.com/DisneyVacationClub](https://www.facebook.com/DisneyVacationClub) and [Pinterest.com/DisneyVacationClub](https://www.pinterest.com/DisneyVacationClub)), the "Member Insider" bimonthly email newsletter (see page 18 for details about registering to receive the email newsletter if you aren't already) and future editions of *Disney Files* Magazine for more details about these and other elements of the 25th anniversary celebration.



Disney Vacation Club®

MEMBERSHIP



Picture yourself at the 'Top of the World'

Coveted lounge welcomes more Members 'home'

Walt Disney World Resort: Members staying at Bay Lake Tower at Disney's Contemporary Resort aren't the only Members enjoying the view from the Top of the World Lounge.

The highly coveted space, ideally positioned atop Bay Lake Tower and named in honor of the Top of the World restaurant and lounge that entertained Guests next door at Disney's Contemporary Resort from 1971-1993, is currently open to Members and their Guests staying at other Walt Disney World Resorts on most dates.*

Today's Top of the World Lounge offers unparalleled Magic Kingdom and Bay Lake views (and, on the clearest days, views of all four Walt Disney World Theme Parks), specialty cocktails, and a small assortment of appetizers and desserts from 6 p.m.-midnight daily.

The lounge is particularly popular after dark, when it becomes the perfect perch from which to enjoy the Wishes nighttime spectacular in the Magic Kingdom sky, complete with the show's stirring soundtrack playing both inside the lounge and outside on the rooftop viewing deck. (Note

that, as the first-come, first-served lounge doesn't take reservations, arriving early for fireworks viewing is highly recommended.)

The circular lounge continues the resort's retro-modern theme, with standout details ranging from its custom, midcentury modern chandelier to its translucent window panels featuring monorail concept art by Disney Legend and Imagineer Bob Gurr, whose vision shaped many of Disney's most distinctive vehicles during his illustrious career (ranging, beyond the monorail, from Autopia cars to Flying Saucers). The intimate space accommodates approximately 80 people and features a variety of seating options, including bar stools, high-top tables and comfortable lounge furniture.

To access the lounge, present your current MagicBand or Key to the World card along with your valid Membership Card and photo ID to the concierge at Bay Lake Tower.

*Access to the Top of the World Lounge is restricted to Members and those in their traveling party who are staying on that Member's reservation at a Disney-owned-and-operated Walt Disney World Resort hotel. Blockout dates apply, including but not limited to Dec. 30-31, 2015; and July 3-4 and Dec. 30-31, 2016. Additional access restrictions may apply.



New friends on the block

New Disney Springs locations present special Member offers

Walt Disney World Resort: From seafood and sailings to sweets and shades, some of the latest offerings now available at Disney Springs include special Member discounts. The new perk providers are part of The Landing (located at the former site of Pleasure Island), one of four distinctive neighborhoods materializing as the development of Disney Springs continues into 2016 (the others being Marketplace, Town Center and West Side). Here's a look at just some of the Membership Extras available at The Landing.

Apex by Sunglass Hut: A first-of-its kind sunglass store catering to performance-driven Guests, this specialty boutique offers a selection of sport-performance and lifestyle eyewear from such leading brands as Oakley, Ray-Ban and Under Armour. Guests can even customize their own Oakley eyewear and test out their selected sunglasses in the shop's revolutionary Explore Chamber, a simulation program designed to help Guests select the best lens for their needs. The shop, like other Sunglass Hut locations at Walt Disney World Resort, offers a 10 percent Member discount.

The BOATHOUSE: This yacht club-inspired restaurant, bar and marina (pictured below) serves up a gourmet menu – with much of the seafood locally sourced – and waterfront views of Lake Buena Vista. With artwork and artifacts celebrating classic seafaring vessels inside the restaurant – and headline-grabbing amphicar (the nine classic cars that magically become boats are among only about 180 such vehicles in operation across the globe) sending Guests

on 20-minute, Captain-guided voyages outside the restaurant – The BOATHOUSE is equal parts dining and entertainment. Members enjoy a 15 percent discount on lunch and dinner (excluding alcohol, tax and gratuity), as well as regular-priced merchandise and amphicar voyages.

Erin McKenna's Bakery NYC: A unique bakery with an entirely vegan, gluten-free and kosher menu, Erin McKenna's Bakery NYC is the vision of its namesake pastry chef, whose own food sensitivities inspired the recipes and her first bakery in New York City. Guests now enjoy these special treats at her quaint (and very pink) bakery at The Landing, and at select locations throughout Walt Disney World Resort. Erin McKenna's Bakery NYC at The Landing offers Members a 10 percent discount.

Havaianas: Devoted entirely to Havaianas, touted as the original flip flops, this Brazilian-inspired shop offers a wide range of flip flops and lets Guests customize their own pair, selecting the color of the sole and straps, and adding charms for personalized flair. Members enjoy a 10 percent discount off their purchase.

Vivoli il Gelato: The world-famous, family-run gelato shop that holds the distinction of being the only food venue mentioned in *National Geographic's City Guide to Florence* has opened its second standalone storefront (the first outside Italy) at The Landing at Disney Springs. The shop serves hand-crafted Italian gelato, espresso drinks, Panini sandwiches and other Italian favorites, all available to Members at a 10 percent discount.

REMINDER: To take advantage of Membership Extras, remember to present your valid Membership Card and photo ID.



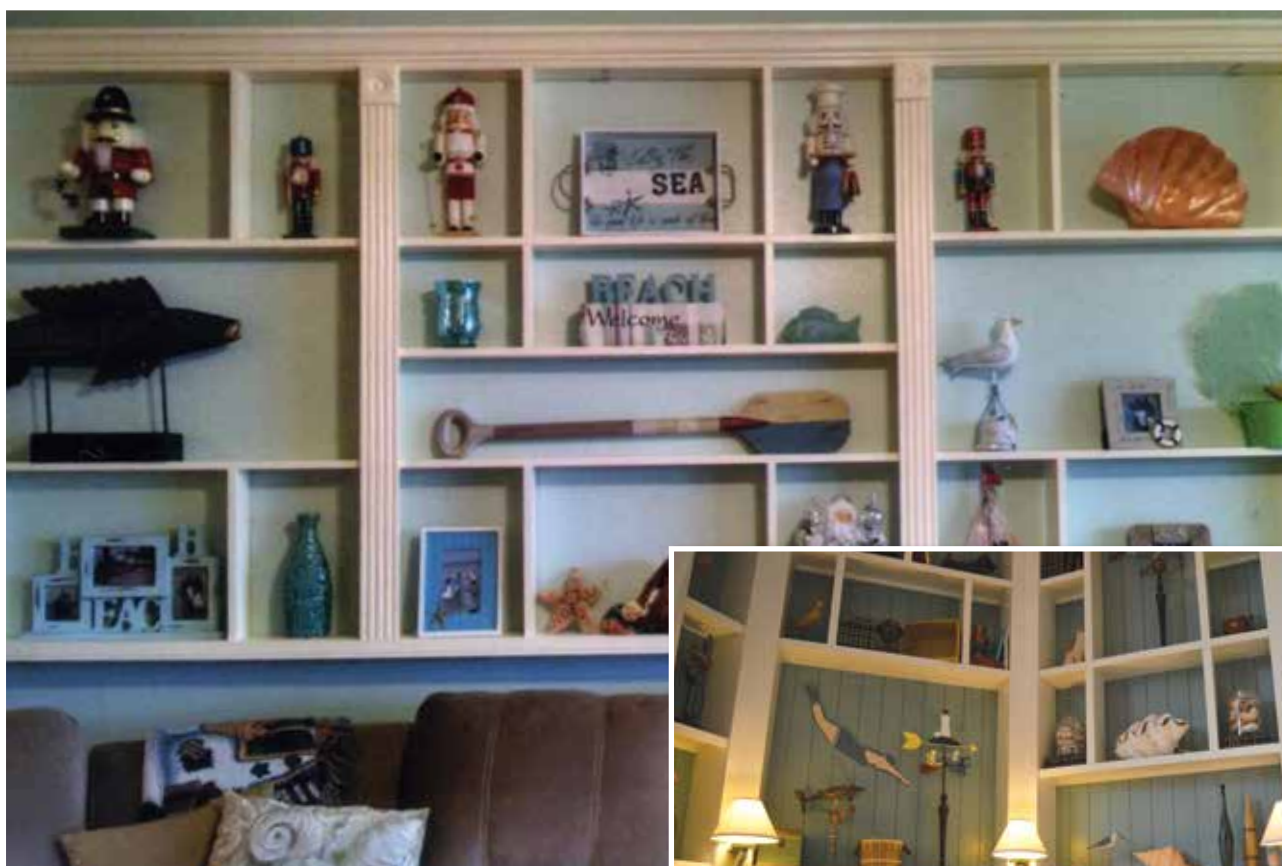


my Disney home

Where Members Live

Disney Files Magazine proudly presents photos and stories from Members who have made Disney part of their home decorating. This edition's submission comes from the Brady family of Florida, Member since 2003.

Inspired by the tranquility of The Breezeway at Disney's Beach Club Villas, the Brady family has turned a wall in their home (pictured here during the holiday season) into a seaside celebration of places where sand meets saltwater.



Brady family home

The Breezeway at
Disney's Beach Club Villas



Do you have a Disney home? Whether it's an expansive collection of Disney memorabilia or your own Disney-inspired space, we'd like to see it. Send your photos (keeping copies for yourself as we won't return ours), along with a letter containing your Member Since year and describing your unique Disney style, to Disney Files Magazine's "My Disney Home," Disney Vacation Club, 1390 Celebration Blvd., Celebration, FL 34747. Remember to include a signed release form, available for download and printing online at disneyvacationclub.com/releaseform.

RCI[®] PRESENTS

picture this

To help spark your vacation-planning dreams for the New Year, *Disney Files* Magazine presents this stunning shot of a volcanic-crater lake in Manila, Philippines, one of many exotic destinations available to Members through RCI*. See if you can find the seven things we've altered in this photo, and remember to visit disneyvacationclub.com to learn more about the thousands of exchange options at your fingertips as part of Membership Magic.

*Resort options in all destinations are limited and subject to availability. Note that vacation destinations offered through exchange opportunities require a fee and may be modified or withdrawn at any time without notice.



original



altered

ANSWERS: (1) A mountain in the background now smiles like Uku, one of the singing Hawaiian volcano stars of the Disney•Pixar short LAVA, (2) a mountain peak to the right of that smiling rock formation has disappeared, (3) a rooftop on the shore has grown longer toward the water's edge, (4) the stairway in the photo's foreground is now shorter, (5) the land now protrudes further into the water near the center of the photo, (6) the tall grasses in the foreground near the right edge of the photo have been cut shorter, and (7) a group of people have disappeared from the beach on the left side of the photo.



Disney's Animal Kingdom Theme Park: Grazing Guests are discovering a savory safari of new options at Disney's Animal Kingdom Theme Park. The recently revamped Gardens Kiosk on Discovery Island offers fresh salads (including a Trek Power Salad with quinoa, beets, edamame and citrus; and a Farmer's Salad with blueberries, goat cheese and candied pecans) and artfully crafted beverages (from a raspberry lemonade sweetened with stevia to a chilled green tea infused with orange blossom honey), while the Beastly Kiosk serves up such heartier fare as baked lobster mac and cheese, and a baked pasta marinara with mozzarella. The salads and pasta dishes qualify as snack entitlements on the Disney Dining Plan.

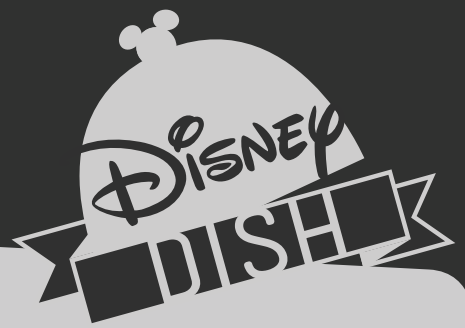
Disney's Hollywood Studios: The fit-for-a-star selection of small plates and beverages served at The Hollywood Brown Derby Lounge continues to evolve. Among the latest offerings available at the newly renovated outdoor space are Bloody Mary-marinated shrimp and chorizo with heirloom tomatoes on toasted ciabatta with garlic herb butter, a Zellwood Corn Bisque served with a corn and lobster fritter and Ancho chili oil, and "Crispy Bites" featuring gourmet cheeses and sauces. New cocktail options, meanwhile, range from a Grapefruit Cake Martini to a Mint Julep made with premium reserve bourbon.

Disney's Hollywood Studios: Through Jan. 3, 2016, the Hollywood & Vine restaurant at Disney's Hollywood Studios presents "Minnie's Holiday Dine," a Minnie Mouse-hosted holiday dinner featuring festive food, décor, music and activities, along with appearances by Mickey Mouse, Donald Duck, Daisy Duck and Santa Goofy. Reservations are available now by phone through Member Services, online at disneyworld.com/dine and through the My Disney Experience app.

Disney's Grand Californian Hotel & Spa: Napa Rose, the award-winning, fine-dining restaurant at Disney's Grand Californian Hotel & Spa at Disneyland Resort, now features a state-of-the-art "WineStation" by Napa Technology that allows sommeliers to offer 1-, 3- and 5-ounce pours of wines previously available only by the bottle. The rotating selection typically features a Pinot, two Cabernets and a Spanish wine, all listed on the menu with ratings.



▲ **Disney's Wilderness Lodge:** Artist Point, the signature dining destination at Disney's Wilderness Lodge, has rolled out a new menu under the direction of new Chef Michael Gonsalves. Continuing the restaurant's focus on sustainable agriculture, the menu blends local and Pacific Northwest ingredients, balancing some of Artist Point fans' favorite dishes (from the smoky Portobello mushroom soup to the aged buffalo strip loin) with fresh offerings that range from a "Land" Greens Salad (featuring hand-picked lettuces from Epcot greenhouses) to a dashi-braised short rib starter to a fresh take on the restaurant's famous cedar-plank salmon (with a twist of Florida citrus). The menu also features a broad selection of Oregon and Washington cheeses (pictured here), wines and ales (including a Rogue Ale brewed in partnership with Portland's famous Voodoo Donuts). Reservations are available as many as 180 days in advance by phone through Member Services, online at disneyworld.com/dine and through the My Disney Experience app.



Rolling Boulder Sliders, Jock Lindsey's Hangar Bar

Jock Lindsey, noted pilot and sidekick to Indiana Jones, reportedly took notice of the location known today as Disney Springs while flying the eminent archaeologist over the Sunshine State in search of the elusive Fountain of Youth in 1938. The pilot purchased the piece of property in the 1940s and built a hangar – including an air tower, office and modest living quarters – from which he led aerial tours. It was here that Jock earned the privilege of joining the Adventurers Club and the Society of Explorers and Adventurers, making him a living legend in those elite circles. After retiring from flight, Jock transformed the hangar into the waterfront watering hole now serving Walt Disney World Guests, who nosh and imbibe in some of the area's most unique spaces, including a booth retrofitted from an old fuselage and a dry-docked steamboat named after Jock's pet snake, Reggie. Beverages range from the Floridian-vodka-based "Reggie's Revenge" to the African-spirit-fueled "Cool-headed Monkey," while small-plate food options range from "Dr. Elsa's She-Deviiled Eggs" with lump crab filling to "Air Pirate's Pretzels" with a beer-cheese fondue. The *Disney Files* staff took an instant liking to the "Rolling Boulder Sliders," a dish for which we're pleased to share the deliciously simple recipe. If that rolling boulder in *Raiders of the Lost Ark* was this tasty, maybe Indy wouldn't have fled.

Makes: 12 sliders

Spicy Yogurt Sauce ingredients:

- ½ cup plain Greek yogurt
- 1 teaspoon lemon juice
- 1 teaspoon Sriracha sauce
- ½ teaspoon coarse salt

Slider ingredients:

- 1 ½ pounds ground beef
- 3 cloves garlic, chopped
- ½ yellow onion, diced
- ¼ teaspoon ground cayenne pepper
- 1 teaspoon paprika
- 1 teaspoon ground cumin
- 1 tablespoon garam masala
- 1 tablespoon coarse salt
- 12 small slider buns
- ¼ head iceberg lettuce, shredded

Steps:

Spicy Yogurt Sauce

1. Mix all the ingredients in a small bowl and refrigerate until ready for use.

Sliders

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees Fahrenheit.
2. Mix all ingredients in a bowl.
3. Shape mixture into 12 meatball-shaped patties. Flatten slightly.
4. Bake on large baking sheet for 30-40 minutes, until cooked to your liking.
5. Serve on buns with shredded lettuce and Spicy Yogurt Sauce.



This recipe has been converted from a larger quantity in the restaurant kitchens. The flavor profile may vary from the restaurant's version. All recipes are the property of Walt Disney Parks and Resorts U.S., Inc., and may not be reproduced without express permission.



neighborhood notes

new or noteworthy in our magical community

Resort development: Disney Vacation Club recently announced plans to develop new accommodations at Disney's Wilderness Lodge. When completed, this would be the 14th Disney Vacation Club development and the second at Disney's Wilderness Lodge. Current plans call for the resort to feature deluxe accommodations, including waterfront cabins. Beyond the Disney Vacation Club project, planned enhancements to other Guest areas at the property range from recreation facilities to food-and-beverage options. Watch *Disney Files* Magazine for updates about this proposed addition to the Walt Disney World landscape at a future date. Note that this resort is not yet registered or available for sale.

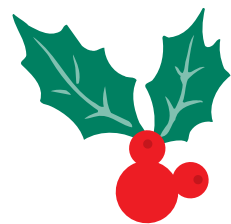


▲ **MagicBands:** While collecting MagicBands has become a new hobby for many Walt Disney World Guests (including a growing number of Members who happily decorate their Christmas trees with a colorful "garland" of linked MagicBands), others are interested in alternatives to accumulating the high-tech accessories. Members booking Walt Disney World Resort reservations through Member Services may now opt-out of receiving a new MagicBand for their upcoming vacation. This option is particularly popular among those who have purchased specially designed MagicBands on a previous trip

and would like to use them again. The MagicBand opt-out option also is available online through the "Customize Your MagicBands" page at MyDisneyExperience.com. To recycle no-longer-wanted MagicBands in your possession, simply drop them off at any Walt Disney World Resort hotel front desk.

Indian River County, Fla.: Further solidifying its reputation as "Florida's Treasure Coast," the ocean near Disney's Vero Beach Resort recently gave treasure hunters another dazzling discovery: 350 gold coins valued at \$4.5 million! The collection, lost from a Spanish fleet of 11 ships that departed Cuba for Spain on July 24, 1715 but sank a week later during a hurricane off the Florida coast, includes nine coins known as "Royals," which historians say were made as display pieces for the King of Spain Phillip V. Now salvaged 300 years after that hurricane, the nine "Royals" represent 30 percent of those known to exist and are worth an estimated \$300,000 each.

Merry Member Mixer: Members are celebrating the season with their neighbors during the Merry Member Mixer at Epcot. Taking place this year from 3-5 p.m. on Nov. 24, and Dec. 1, 8, 14 and 22 in the climate-controlled comfort of the Park's World ShowPlace pavilion, the Disney Vacation Club event (included for Members and their Guests with paid Epcot admission) features a dance party, holiday crafts for kids, meet-and-greets with festively attired Disney characters, complimentary refreshments and more. No reservations are required.



Aulani, a Disney Resort & Spa, Ko Olina, Hawai'i: The poolside Wailana Bar recently introduced a Wailana Coffee Bar that serves specialty coffees (including 100 percent Kona

Member Insider: A growing number of Members are staying connected to neighborhood news and notes between quarterly editions of Disney Files Magazine through “Member Insider,” a personalized, bi-monthly email newsletter created as part of Membership Magic. If you aren’t receiving “Member Insider” and would like to do so, be sure to register your preferred email address online at disneyvacationclub.com. Simply visit the site’s “My DVC Membership” tab and update your email address on the “Profile Settings” page.

drip coffee) from 6-10 a.m. daily. The Wailana Bar then reopens from 11 a.m.-5 p.m. daily for lunch and cocktails. Note that coffee for the resort’s refillable mugs remains available at Ulu Cafe.

Disney’s BoardWalk Entertainment District:

Flying Fish Café is scheduled to close for refurbishment from February through fall 2016, allowing crews to renovate the restaurant’s dining room and kitchen. Watch *Disney Files* Magazine for updates.



▲ **Disney’s Contemporary Resort:** Outer Rim, the laid-back lounge that has long served specialty cocktails with stunning views of Bay Lake from 4:30-10:30 p.m. daily, has expanded its operating hours to 11:30 a.m.-10:30 p.m. daily, giving Members and Guests more time to enjoy a Piña CoLAVA, Red Stag Lemonade or one of those luminescent “Glow-tinis” that still get *Disney Files* staffers oddly excited.

Disney’s Grand Floridian Resort & Spa: Mizner’s Lounge, tucked behind the Grand Floridian Society Orchestra stage on the lobby’s second floor, recently expanded its offerings and operating schedule. From 8 a.m.-4 p.m. daily, the location now features Mizner’s Coffee Bar, serving coffee, cappuccino, assorted pastries and a limited selection of alcoholic beverages. A broader array of cocktails, along with a selection

of small plate foods, are available each evening from 4:30 p.m.-midnight.

Hilton Head Island, S.C.: The local shopping, dining and recreation options available to Members and Guests at Disney’s Hilton Head Island Resort recently expanded with the debut of the nearby Shelter Cove Towne Centre. Replacing the island’s indoor Mall at Shelter Cove and located less than a mile from Disney’s Hilton Head Island Resort, the new, outdoor development features 290,000 square feet of shops, restaurants and entertainment spaces, surrounded by pedestrian trails and a waterfront park offering scenic views of the marsh.

Pool hopping: Whenever you’re 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’re not at capacity. You must present your Magic Band or current Key to the World card with a Disney Vacation Club Member designation along with a photo ID to use other eligible pools. Due to expected high occupancy, pool hopping isn’t available Nov. 22-29 or Dec. 19, 2015-Jan. 3, 2016. Pool hopping is never available at Disney’s Art of Animation Resort, Bay Lake Tower at Disney’s Contemporary Resort, Disney’s Animal Kingdom Lodge, Disney’s Yacht & Beach Club Resorts (including Disney’s Beach Club Villas), Disney’s Polynesian Village Resort, or at the Disneyland Resort in California. Further block-out dates may be added based on capacity issues. Look for details online at disneyvacationclub.com. Please remember that pools are available only to registered Members and Guests staying at that resort (along with those staying with them in their room), as well as Members utilizing their pool-hopping perk. Pool usage isn’t available to Members who live locally or are staying at non-Disney Resorts.



Tomorrow is just a dream away

What's next for Disney Parks

Putting a bow on 2015 and looking ahead to the New Year and beyond, *Disney Files* Magazine whets your appetite for adventure with new Disney Parks offerings shaping our great big beautiful tomorrow.

2016

Season of the Force

Disneyland Park (California) and Disney's Hollywood Studios (Florida)

Beginning in early 2016, the Season of the Force event will delight *Star Wars* fans with an intergalactic array of new entertainment and experiences, from a "Hyperspace Mountain" re-imagining of the Space Mountain attraction at Disneyland Park in California (engaging Guests in an X-wing Starfighter battle) to weekend fireworks displays at Disney's Hollywood Studios in Florida (set to the iconic score of the *Star Wars* films).

Rivers of Light

Disney's Animal Kingdom Theme Park (Florida)

Scheduled to debut in spring 2016, the "Rivers of Light" nighttime spectacular will combine live performers, floating lanterns, water screens and swirling animal imagery on the natural stage of the Park's Discovery River (between Discovery Island and Expedition Everest: Legend of the Forbidden Mountain).

Sunset Kilimanjaro Safaris

Disney's Animal Kingdom Theme Park (Florida)

Also unfolding in the evening hours beginning next spring are Sunset Kilimanjaro Safaris, a new nighttime adventure that'll lead Guests through the African savanna beneath the setting sun, where they'll discover two new species on the savanna: African wild dogs and hyenas.

The Year of Wishes

Tokyo DisneySea Park (Japan)

The "Tokyo DisneySea 15th Anniversary: The Year of Wishes" celebration is scheduled to take place from April 15, 2016-March 17, 2017. Among the celebration's planned entertainment offerings are a new Mediterranean Harbor show titled "Crystal Wishes Journey" (in which Disney characters will share their own wishes), and updates to music, costumes and more at the popular "Big Band Beat" show in the Park's Broadway Music Theatre, the first such changes since the show's 2006 debut.

Soarin' Around the World

Disney California Adventure Park (California) and Epcot (Florida)

Whether taking flight from Soarin' attraction runways in California or Florida, Guests will journey to far-flung lands, and fly above some of the world's most unique natural landscapes and man-made wonders when Soarin' Around

the World makes its U.S. debut next year. (The attraction will employ the same advanced technology behind the Soaring Over the Horizon attraction in the works for Shanghai Disneyland, complete with new digital screens and projection systems.) In the meantime, take a sneak peek at the making of the new film:



Iron Man Experience **Hong Kong Disneyland (China)**

At the Stark Expo, Guests will explore the history of Stark Industries through its many life-improving inventions, from those created by founder Howard Stark to the present-day creations of a team led by Tony Stark. Among the new inventions on display will be the Iron Wing, a groundbreaking vehicle that will take Guests on a short flight to the new Hong Kong Stark Tower, where they'll find themselves in a fight – alongside Iron Man – against the evil forces of Hydra above the streets of Hong Kong. Scheduled to open in 2016, Iron Man Experience will be the first major Marvel attraction at any Disney Park.

Also in the works (Watch *Disney Files Magazine* for dates and details.)

Pandora – The World of AVATAR **Disney's Animal Kingdom Theme Park (Florida)**

Inspired by the magnificent world of Pandora from James Cameron's record-breaking film AVATAR – complete with its floating mountains and bioluminescent forests – the largest expansion in Disney's Animal Kingdom history

will feature multiple attractions, including AVATAR Flight of Passage. The spectacular flying experience will give Guests a birds-eye view of the vast alien world on the back of a Banshee, one of the majestic winged creatures that call Pandora home.

Star Wars-themed lands **Disneyland Park (California) and Disney's Hollywood Studios (Florida)**

Guests will explore a remote trading port in the *Star Wars* universe when 14-acre *Star Wars*-themed lands – the largest single-themed land expansions in Disney history – debut at Disneyland Park and Disney's Hollywood Studios. (See artist rendering atop page 19.) Each of the lands will feature two signature attractions: one that'll put Guests in the middle of a climactic battle between the First Order and the Resistance, and another that will place Guests behind the controls of the famed Millennium Falcon for a customized mission.

Toy Story Land **Disney's Hollywood Studios (Florida)**

Inspired by the Disney•Pixar *Toy Story* films, the 11-acre Toy Story Land will shrink Guests to the size of toys and transport them to Andy's backyard, where they'll enjoy new attractions constructed from Andy's toys. A family friendly roller coaster will invite Guests to zip, zoom, plunge and coast on the back of Slinky Dog, while an alien saucers attraction will send Guests spinning among the little green aliens as "The Claw" looms overhead. The new, family friendly attractions amplify the *Toy Story* adventures of a Park that's also adding a third track to its popular Toy Story Mania! experience.



Artist Rendering — Proposed



BUZZWORTHY

11 stories • 2 pages • 1 space ranger

Disneyland Resort: The new official Disneyland mobile app for iOS and Android devices lets Guests explore Disneyland Park and Disney California Adventure Park, view attraction wait times and purchase tickets (with the convenient option of scanning the app at the gate to enter the Park). Disneyland Resort Annual Passholders may link their passes to the app, and use it to easily find blackout dates and renewal information. Plans call for a variety of future enhancements, integrating Disneyland Resort dining reservations, the Disney PhotoPass service and more. Disney Vacation Club Members may download the free app at disneyland.com/club.

Walt Disney World Resort: Walt Disney World Guests may use the new Shop Disney Parks app for iOS and Android devices to locate merchandise items through an online map to purchase in person, or to purchase the items through the app for front-of-Park pickup or delivery to their Resort. The app also simplifies the shopping process from home, allowing for easy product purchases through mobile devices. Disney Vacation Club Members enjoy a 10 percent discount off purchases through the app. To learn more and download the free app*, visit disneyworld.com/ShopMembers.

*Available for iPhone, iPad and smartphones for Android. Message, data and roaming rates may apply. Coverage and app stores not available everywhere. Android and Google Play are trademarks of Google, Inc. Other restrictions may apply.

Disneyland and Walt Disney World Resorts: Guests at Disneyland Park in California and Disney's Hollywood Studios in Florida can explore new reaches of the galaxy at the hit Star Tours – The Adventures Continue attraction, featuring locations and characters from the upcoming film *Star Wars: The Force Awakens*. For an even deeper look at the highly anticipated film, head to *Star Wars* Launch Bay, an interactive experience filled with special exhibits, peeks behind the scenes, *Star Wars* character meet-and-greets,

specialty merchandise and more. Finally, young Padawans looking to sharpen their lightsaber skills under the expert guidance of a Jedi Master will find a new villain to battle at the Jedi Training Academy.

ESPN Wide World of Sports Complex: Prince Harry's Invictus Games, the only international, adaptive sporting event for injured active-duty and veteran service members, will take place May 8-12, 2016, at ESPN Wide World of Sports Complex at Walt Disney World Resort. More than 400 participants from as many as 14 nations are expected to compete in 10 sports. Learn more about the Games online at InvictusGamesFoundation.org.

Magic Kingdom Park (Florida): Enjoy "World Famous Jungle Cuisine" at the Jungle Cruise Skipper Canteen! Staffed by Jungle Cruise Skippers and hosted by the Jungle Navigation Co. near the gateway to Adventureland, the exotic new restaurant features uniquely themed dining rooms, including a crew mess hall and a once-hidden secret meeting room of the famed Society of Explorers and Adventurers.

Disney Cruise Line: The unprecedented *Star Wars* Day at Sea – taking place during 7-night Western Caribbean voyages departing Port Canaveral, Fla., aboard the Disney Fantasy on Jan. 9 and 23, Feb. 6 and 20, March 5 and 19, and April 2 and 16, 2016 – features *Star Wars* character meet-and-greets, a fireworks-filled *Star Wars* deck party, *Star Wars*-themed youth activities, family friendly *Star Wars* trivia games, at-sea screenings of the *Star Wars* films, a shipboard version of Disney Parks' Jedi Training Academy experience and more. Learn more about these and other available itineraries online at disneycruise.com before calling Member Services to book your voyage.**

**Effective March 21, 2011, Members who do not purchase their ownership interest directly from Disney will not be able to use those vacation points for Disney Cruise Line exchanges.

MERRY CHRISTMAS

Disneyland

A Christmas Fantasy Parade, and the festively transformed Haunted Mansion, “it’s a small world” and Jingle Cruise attractions (celebrating the season as Haunted Mansion Holiday, “it’s a small world” holiday and Jingle Cruise respectively) are among the holiday happenings at **Disneyland Park**, while festivities next door at **Disney California Adventure Park** include the return of the Latin-inspired “Disney ¡Viva Navidad!” Learn more online at disneyland.com/holidays.

Walt Disney World

Magic Kingdom Park: Mickey’s Very Merry Christmas Party at Magic Kingdom Park, detailed in the fall edition of *Disney Files* Magazine and online at disneyvacationclub.com, continues on special nights through Dec. 18. Guests attending this specially ticketed, “after-hours” party enjoy Mickey’s Once Upon A Christmastime Parade; “A Frozen Holiday Wish” castle-lighting show; the “Holiday Wishes – Celebrate the Spirit of the Season” fireworks spectacular; magical Main Street, U.S.A., snow flurries; hot cocoa and cookies; and more, in addition to many of the Park’s most popular attractions.

Epcot: Neil Patrick Harris, Whoopi Goldberg, Meredith Vieira and Edward James Olmos are among the stars scheduled to take their turn behind the podium as celebrity narrators for this year’s Candlelight Processional. Performed multiple times nightly in the America Gardens Theatre, the stirring retelling of the Christmas story features a mass choir and a 50-piece orchestra. Visit disneyworld.com/holidays or call Member Services to book a Candlelight Dining Package that includes guaranteed seating for the Candlelight Processional. (These packages are highly recommended, as the popular

processional quickly fills to capacity.) Both the Candlelight Processional and the “Holidays Around the World” celebration – featuring specialty food, beverages, merchandise and entertainment throughout World Showcase – are scheduled to run from Nov. 27-Dec. 30.

Disney’s Hollywood Studios: For the final year, the Osborne Family Spectacle of Dancing Lights is transforming the Streets of America into a sparkling, synchronized showcase of holiday music and millions of twinkling lights through Jan. 3, 2016. The stunning spectacle started modestly at the Arkansas home of Jennings Osborne before moving to Florida, where it has dazzled Walt Disney World Guests since 1995.

DISNEY CRUISE LINE

The Disney Cruise Line ships are once again embarking on Very Merrytime Cruises this holiday season. From festive onboard décor and entertainment to magical snow flurries on Disney’s private-island paradise, Castaway Cay, the fleet-wide celebration is unfolding on all four ships departing before Christmas day. Learn more at disneycruise.com/holidays.*

*Effective March 21, 2011, Members who do not purchase their ownership interest directly from Disney will not be able to use those vacation points for Disney Cruise Line exchanges.



Visit DisneyParks.com to learn about holiday happenings at other Disney Parks across the globe.



Return of the Roar

'The Lion Guard' brings Simba's second born to television

"The Lion Guard," a new animated television series born from the world of *The Lion King* and set to debut on Disney Channels and Disney Junior Channels across the globe early next year, begins with a primetime television movie event premiering on Disney Channel in November (check local listings).

Produced by Disney Television Animation and titled "The Lion Guard: Return of the Roar," the movie follows Kion, the second-born cub of Simba and Nala, as he assumes leadership of the Lion Guard, a team tasked with preserving the Pride Lands.

While the Lion Guard has historically included only *lions* known to be the fiercest, bravest, fastest, strongest and keenest of sight, Kion breaks tradition by instead calling upon friends of many species who he believes best exemplify these heroic qualities. Throughout the movie and the series to follow, this diverse team of young animals learns how to utilize each of their unique abilities to solve problems and accomplish tasks to maintain balance within the Circle of Life.

As the film and series also aim to introduce young viewers to a vast

array of African animals, the production team worked closely with Education and Science experts at Disney's Animal Kingdom Theme Park, who advised on the characteristics, behaviors and habitats of the featured species. The firsthand experiences of the Disney's Animal Kingdom Cast also influenced original storylines, while author and Swahili expert Sarah Mirza adds authenticity as a language and cultural advisor.

The insights help inspire a production team that features an all-star lineup of Disney Channel creative forces, including executive producer Ford Riley ("Special Agent Oso"), director Howy Parkins ("Jake and the Never Land Pirates"), composer Christopher Willis (the new "Mickey Mouse" animated shorts) and singer/songwriter Beau Black ("Miles from Tomorrowland").

Equally stellar is an expansive voice cast that returns James Earl Jones and Ernie Sabella to the roles of Mufasa (who lives on in spirit) and Pumbaa respectively, while also featuring, among many others, Rob Lowe ("The Grinder") as Simba, Gabrielle Union ("Being Mary Jane") as Nala, Max Charles ("The Strain") as Kion, and Atticus Shaffer ("The Middle") as the intellectual egret Ono.



Did you know?

As part of its commitment to including parents in their children's Disney experience, Disney Junior offers a variety of online resources for grownups, from craft and recipe ideas to blogs and mobile apps.

Learn more at forgrownups.disneyjunior.com

Defying the odds

Incredible true story to unfold on screen during *The Finest Hours*

Inspired by the most daring rescue mission in U.S. Coast Guard history, Disney's new heroic action-thriller *The Finest Hours* will storm into U.S. theaters on Jan. 29, 2016, in Disney Digital 3D, Real D 3D and IMAX 3D.

The pulse-pounding film is based on a remarkable true story that unfolded in February 1952 off the coast of Cape Cod, where one of the worst storms ever to hit the East Coast ripped through an oil tanker and trapped more than 30 sailors aboard the rapidly sinking vessel. The crew's only hope for survival rested in the hands and hearts of four members of the U.S. Coast Guard, whose small lifeboat would have to beat frigid temperatures, 70-foot waves and extraordinary odds to bring the sailors home.

To learn more, *Disney Files* Magazine caught up with Jim Whitaker, who produced the film with Dorothy Aufiero and whose credits range from 2007's *American Gangster* and 2010's *Robin Hood* to such Disney fare as 2012's *The Odd Life of Timothy Green* and the forthcoming live-action re-imagining of *Pete's Dragon*.

"I grew up for a period of my life in a small town in Nova Scotia, so I have a very personal connection to people who take on the sea," Whitaker said of his initial attraction to *The Finest Hours* story, which he read in a 2009 non-fiction novel of the same name. "But beyond that, I found the story to be incredibly hopeful."

Asked how the non-fiction source material impacts the creative process, Whitaker spoke of a deep sense of responsibility.

"You have a great responsibility to tell a truthful story, and to be specific with the facts," he said. "It's not every day that you find a story that meets the criteria for being a great film while also being true, so it's both a responsibility and a

privilege to tell a story like this."

Bolstering the production team's pursuit of authenticity were visits with real survivors of the historic events.

"We were struck by the specificity and clarity of those conversations," he recalled of the interviews, more than 60 years removed from the storm. "They remember the events like they were yesterday, which speaks to the enormous impact of their harrowing experience."

Whitaker drew particular inspiration from the matter-of-fact, "we just did what we had to do" tone of the rescuers' stories, concluding that, "their selfless nobility was really emblematic of that time."

While the film's cast (which includes such stars as Chris Pine, Casey Affleck, Ben Foster, Holliday Grainger, John Ortiz and Eric Bana) and crew enjoyed considerably more creature comforts than those available on a sinking oil tanker or overmatched lifeboat, the on-location shoot amid a New England winter's sub-freezing temperatures did test their mettle. (One member of the crew, who has more than 50 films

on his resume, said that two of the five toughest days of his career took place during this film's production.)

"That environment connects you to this story," Whitaker said. "When the cameras stopped rolling, you'd sit there, freezing as you looked out across the darkness of the ocean, and you'd think, 'How did these guys do it?' It adds purposefulness to your work that translates to the screen. I'm so proud of this film and the amazing team behind it."

The Finest Hours is directed by Craig Gillespie (*Million Dollar Arm*) from a screenplay by Scott Silver, Paul Tamasy & Eric Johnson (Oscar nominees for their previous collaboration on the 2010 film *The Fighter*) based on the book by Casey Sherman and Michael J. Tougias.





Ears to 60 Years with Mouseketeer Bobby Burgess

Original Mouseketeer's new book offers unique perspective on Disney history

By Tim O'Day

With its 92-year history, every year brings numerous milestone anniversaries to The Walt Disney Company – special occasions that mark significant achievements; generating happy memories and even pulling at the heartstrings. This year, however, significant 60th anniversaries, in particular, seem to abound.

To a generation of baby-boomers, 1955 was not only a special year for the premiere of *Lady and the Tramp* and the opening of Disneyland Park, but also the debut of one of the most influential children's television shows of all-time – “The Mickey Mouse Club.” Although there have been three iterations of “The Mickey Mouse Club” through the years (1950s, 1970s and 1990s), the original show (which ran on ABC from 1955-1959) remains an early-television classic.

Bobby Burgess, one of the seven original Mouseketeers who remained with the show during its entire duration, recently penned a book titled *Ears & Bubbles: Dancing My Way from The Mickey Mouse Club to The Lawrence Welk Show*. It's an autobiography that recalls his impressive entertainment career, including his fancy footwork through Disney history. Lawrence Welk, the popular dance band orchestra leader that Bobby would also have a long association with later in his career, once said of him, “I never had any trouble with Bobby because he was raised by Walt Disney!”

I recently sat down with Bobby to discuss his new book. The light-hearted paperback certainly includes Bobby's work as a star on the long-running “Lawrence Welk Show” (known for its special variety of toe-tapping “Champagne Music”). However, for Disney enthusiasts, the book is also filled with many behind-the-scenes stories involving “The Mickey Mouse Club,” Disneyland Park, Walt Disney and even a little Disney-inspired moment of romance.

“I've had an incredible association with my pal Mickey Mouse and the folks at Disney,” Bobby said. “I can't believe it's been 60 years since my fellow Mouseketeers and I made our public debut during the opening day festivities at Disneyland! It's truly unbelievable.”

Bobby recalls in the book that the first activity for the Mouseketeers on opening day at Disneyland Park was to participate in the inaugural parade down Main Street, U.S.A. During the live television broadcast of the opening festivities, famed TV personality Art Linkletter was doing color commentary from a balcony on Main Street, describing the parade below. At that time, no one knew what a “Mouseketeer” was, and Linkletter referred to them as “the performing children who'll be on the Disneyland Mickey Mouse Club.”

After the parade, the Mouseketeers were featured in their very own musical production number (“Mouseketeer Roll Call” and “Talent Round-Up”) in front of The Mickey Mouse Club Theater (roughly where Pinocchio's Daring Journey attraction is located today). Everyone with memories of opening day at Disneyland Park can recall the hot temperatures that particular July 17 and, as Bobby recalls in his book, the Mouseketeers were none too cool themselves in their thick wool Talent Round-Up cowboy costumes as they performed a frenetic jitterbug and swing dance.

“One of my favorite stories from Disneyland's opening day actually comes from my fellow Mouseketeer Sharon Baird,” Bobby told me. “As most Disney fans know, Walt Disney had a private apartment above the Fire Station on Main Street. At one point in the day, Sharon caught Mr. Disney, either on the balcony or looking out the window, and could plainly see tears in his eyes as he looked over what he had created.”

Bobby's book keenly makes the observation of how important television was to Walt Disney in

Look for Ears & Bubbles: Dancing My Way from The Mickey Mouse Club to The Lawrence Welk Show wherever books are sold, both in stores and online.

the mid-1950s.

"The 'Disneyland' TV show, 'The Mickey Mouse Club' and 'Zorro,' all on ABC, helped to finance the creation of Disneyland," he said. "As a matter of fact, the ABC connection is honored with four windows on Main Street above the Candy Palace. They read as: 'ABC, ABC Typing, Acme Business College and ABC Shorthand.'"

The book also aptly describes the energy and pace of life at the Walt Disney Studios during the mid-to-late 1950s.

"It was a complete bee-hive of activity filled with a real spirit of excitement," he recalled. "Disneyland was blooming and growing, the TV shows were busy shooting on the lot, plus live-action films, plus *Sleeping Beauty* and *Lady and the Tramp* both were in production.

"We would see Mr. Disney when he would visit our stage or [when he was] walking from one section of the studio to another – always seemingly in deep thought due to everything he had going on. He really wanted us to call him 'Uncle Walt,' but we were kids of the 1950s and were taught to respect adults, so it was almost always 'Mr. Disney.' To us, he was like a congenial school principal.

"One of my favorite Walt Disney encounters happened to my fellow Mouseketeer and good friend, Sherry Alberoni. Mr. Disney was walking along one of the studio streets and saw this spunky little nine-year old and said, 'Hi, Mouseketeer Sherry! Of course, she was thrilled that he knew her name and immediately ran back to our soundstage to tell her Mom, who remarked, 'Honey, you have your Mouseketeer name sweater on!'

"Some years after my 'Mickey Mouse Club' days, my Disney ears and Lawrence Welk bubbles

came together in a most happy and fortunate way. One of my favorite stories in the book is recalling how I proposed to Kristie Floren, daughter of Myron Floren from the Lawrence Welk Orchestra. I popped the question and we got engaged as we flew over Fantasyland on the old Skyway attraction at Disneyland! We've now been married for 44 years!"

Bobby is obviously proud of his Disney roots, saying, "Through the 'Mickey Mouse Club' and my association with The Walt Disney Company, I have met, worked and have become lifelong friends with so many wonderful people, and I'm so happy to have had the opportunity through this new book to not only tell my story but to share their stories as well. I never thought I would ever write an autobiography, but it feels great to have captured such wonderful memories."

Bobby and a few of his fellow original Mouseketeers recently attended the actual "Diamond Celebration" 60th anniversary festivities at Disneyland on another very warm July 17. Bobby said of the experience, "It sure brought back a lot of memories, especially the heat of opening day!"

High temperatures aside, Bobby could not contain his enthusiasm for the occasion, saying, "Looking down Main Street and seeing thousands of people, young and old alike, wearing all different varieties of mouse ears and knowing you're a part of that legacy, well, how can you top that?"

Mouseketeers pose with Mouseketeer leader Jimmie Dodd (Bobby Burgess is top right).



Ten of the original Mouseketeers pose with Mickey Mouse in front of Sleeping Beauty Castle at Disneyland Park on October 3, 2005, to commemorate the 50th anniversary of "The Mickey Mouse Club." Bobby Burgess is in the top row, third from the right.

From all of us to all of you

By Jim Korkis

One of the Korkis family holiday traditions was to gather around the television to watch the animated Christmas specials, and one of our favorites was hosted by our favorite cricket.

Titled “From All of Us to All of You” and presented each year as part of Disney’s weekly television show, the festive special surrounded Jiminy Cricket with colorfully illustrated Christmas cards that transitioned into excerpts from Disney’s classic Christmas cartoons. That was a pretty big deal, because in the days before videotapes – much less Blu-ray discs – that was our only opportunity to see these animated treasures.

Of course, I didn’t give much thought back then to just how bold it was for Walt Disney to produce Christmas cartoons. The tight theatrical window and limited global market for such releases, coupled with the company’s enormous reliance on revenue from animation to stay afloat in those years, made every Christmas cartoon an ambitious roll of the dice.

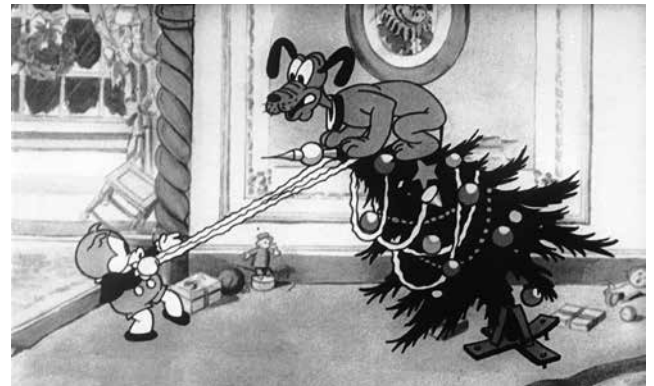
Among the many beneficiaries of those creative decisions were attendees of the annual Disney Studio Christmas party (studio staff and celebrities, along with their families), who would enjoy screenings of the studio’s Christmas cartoons as part of the festivities. To help you plan a similar party this holiday season, here are just a few of the animated shorts to include on your playlist:

“Mickey’s Orphans” (1931): A basket of orphan kittens are left on Mickey’s doorstep at Christmas. Mickey dresses up as Santa, with Pluto attired as a reindeer. The kittens proceed to use their toys to destroy the house and decimate the candy cane-filled Christmas tree. This short was nominated for an Oscar but lost to another Disney nominee, *Flowers and Trees*, the first cartoon short in Technicolor. Mickey’s Orphans was (as mentioned in my fall column) inspired by Walt’s Oswald the Rabbit cartoon *Empty Socks* (1927), in which Oswald dresses as Santa and fills the empty Christmas stockings hung by the chimney at an orphanage.



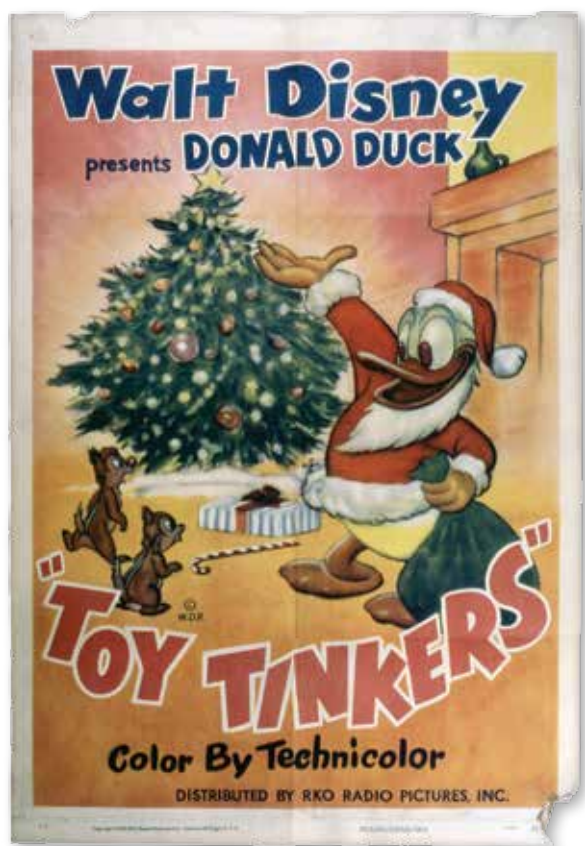
“Mickey’s Good Deed” (1932):

On Christmas Eve, Mickey and Pluto are street performers in dire straits. Mickey has to sell Pluto to a rich family to get money to help out a poor single mother’s large family (another group of poor cat children), but the two pals are reunited happily at the end. The short’s release during the Great Depression made its story matter particularly poignant. ▼



“Santa’s Workshop” (1932): Some of Walt’s top animators – Art Babbitt, Fred Moore, Jack Kinney and Clyde Geronimi – are among those who worked on this short, which finds Santa preparing for his big night. Their work on the short’s “Merry, Merry Men of the Midnight Sun” later influenced work on the dwarfs for the groundbreaking 1937 feature *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs*. The voice of Santa’s grumpy-elf secretary was supplied by Pinto Colvig (the original voice of Goofy) and sounded a lot like Grumpy in *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs* (also voiced by Colvig). Listen carefully as Santa jokingly instructs an elf to include a cake of soap with Billy Brown’s present so the kid could wash behind his ears. The responding elf was voiced by Walt Disney. Santa’s voice, meanwhile, is that of actor Allan Watson, who voiced Old King Cole, King Neptune and Papa Noah in other Silly Symphony shorts. Also keep an eye out for an authentic 1930s Mickey Mouse doll in Santa’s sack atop his sleigh.

“The Night Before Christmas” (1933): The *Santa’s Workshop* story continues in this short, which finds eight small children sharing a bed on Christmas Eve and features the work of such top talent as Roy (Big Mooseketeer) Williams, Ham Luske, Dick Huemer and even Hardie Gramatky (who would later write the now-classic children’s book *Little Toot*). Notice that Santa, again voiced by Allan Watson, never says, “Ho, Ho, Ho,” instead saying, “Ha, Ha, Ha!” Also look for another authentic 1930s Mickey Mouse toy, this time rolling out of Santa’s sack. That pull toy became a highly prized collectible beginning in the 1960s.



▲ **“Toy Tinkers” (1949):** Enticed by a house full of nuts, candies and other Christmas goodies, Chip and Dale infiltrate Donald Duck’s home and engage in a war (with an arsenal of toys) with the feisty fowl. Disney sound-effects legend Jimmy Macdonald voiced both Mickey Mouse and Chip in this short, which was nominated for an Oscar.

“Pluto’s Christmas Tree” (1952): Mickey chops down a tree for Christmas, not realizing it houses Chip and Dale. The unwittingly relocated

chipmunks get into mischief, thwarting Pluto’s every attempt to stop them. Goofy, Donald and Minnie eventually join Mickey and Pluto to sing “Deck the Halls,” making this one of just three Golden Age theatrical shorts in which the “Fab 5” appear together.

“Santa Claus Symphony” (never produced): While you can’t add this never-realized short to your playlist, I thought this was a good opportunity to feed Members’ already-impressive Disney knowledge. Walt’s vision for this 1937 Silly Symphony short was to tell the story of a little boy who makes a wish, shrinks to just a few inches tall and travels with his wish list to the North Pole. Comedic adventure ensues for the toy-sized boy, who eventually runs into good St. Nick, gets restored to full size and hitches a ride home with Santa on Christmas Eve. While there is no official explanation as to why the cartoon was never produced, several factors were likely involved, from the winding down of the Silly Symphony series to the need for top animators to focus on the feature *Pinocchio* (1940).



If six shorts aren’t enough to fill your party, there’s always the feature *Lady and the Tramp* (1955), which begins and ends at Christmas time; *The Small One* (1978, pictured above), a respectful and clever perspective of events surrounding the very first Christmas; and *Mickey’s Christmas Carol* (1983), which not only brought Mickey Mouse back to movie theaters after a 30-year absence, but also re-introduced Uncle Scrooge McDuck to audiences, paving the way for the “DuckTales” television series just a few years later.

In closing, I quote the end credits of that 1958 Jiminy Cricket-hosted broadcast: “This special holiday program is our way of saying ‘Merry Christmas from all of us to all of you.’”

PHOTOFINISH

1. In seeing Mickey for the first time, young Luke, part of the Hensel family of Michigan, Members since 2003, makes one of the best faces in the history of babies.
2. Suzanne Verespey of Pennsylvania, Member since 2001, escapes to some of her favorite places while hospital staff prepare her for a minor surgery.
3. Daniel Jenkins of Indiana, Member since 2003, enjoys a very Florida Christmas.
4. Linda and Tony Lepore of Florida, Members since 1992, bring some reading material to Utah's Arches National Park.
5. The appropriately attired Danielle, part of the McConaghy family of Canada, Members since 2006, teaches us something we didn't know about her favorite Disney princess: Aurora has an excellent sense of humor.
6. Elizabeth Shafer of Florida, Member since 2009, teaches us something we didn't know about koalas: they have excellent taste in periodicals.
7. Shawn and Sebastian, part of the Shaffer family of Georgia, Members since 1997, are devils and black sheep...really bad eggs.
8. Little Cooper, part of the Quirt family of Wisconsin, Members since 2013, hits the road with a friend.

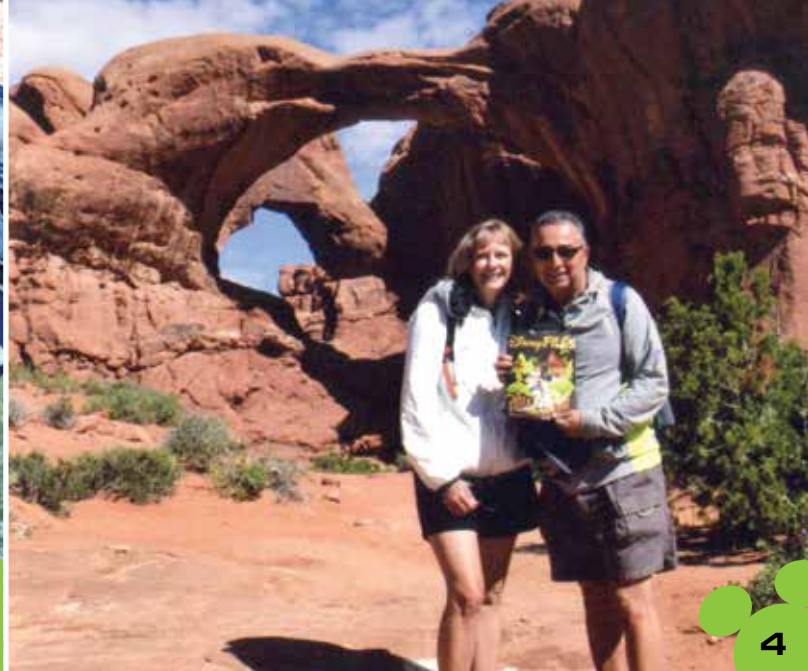
Send your photos (keeping copies for yourself as we won't return ours) to Disney Files Magazine, Disney Vacation Club, 1390 Celebration Blvd., Celebration, FL 34747. Include your name, hometown and "Member Since" year, along with a signed release form for each person pictured. The form is available online at disneyvacationclub.com/releaseform.

Better your chances of seeing your family in the magazine by capturing compelling, candid moments, which almost always beat posed photos. We do, however, enjoy when you pose with the magazine, particularly when you do so in exotic locations beyond the Disney Parks.





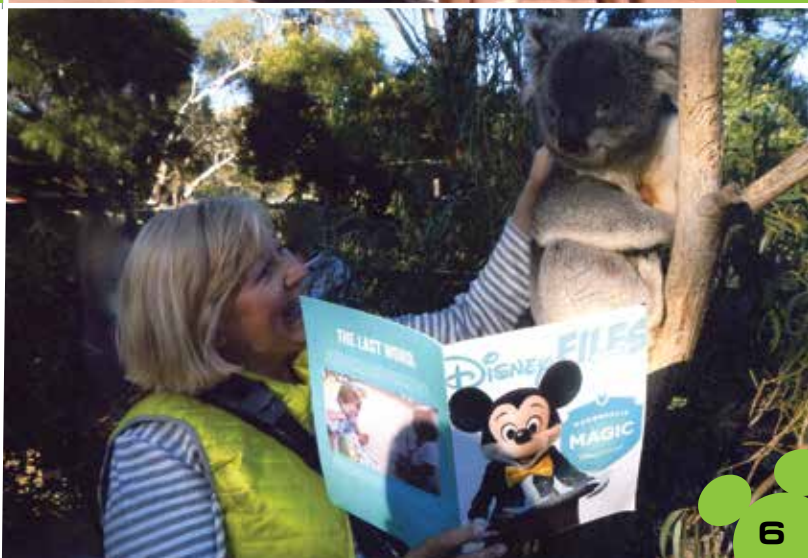
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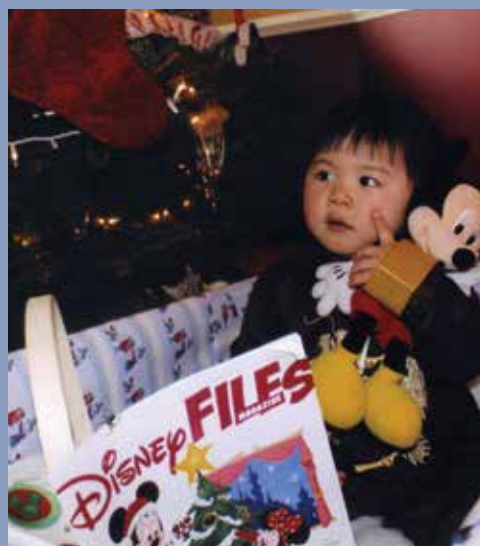
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THE LAST WORD.

Disney Files Magazine is pleased to dedicate its back cover to the playful purpose of turning Member memories into editorial exclamation points, with each installment celebrating moments that we think are worthy of having the last word. As we enjoy time with our families this holiday season, we're proud to feature two heartwarming family stories from our Member community.



"We are so very proud of our son, Nolan," wrote the Reilly family of Pennsylvania, Members since 2013. "He was born with Down Syndrome, and is currently working with a physical therapist and achieving great things. When it was suggested that we use a magazine to give him support with sitting, we had no choice but to use one of our favorites!"



Anxiously counting down the days until they could travel to China to meet their adopted son, the Haughton family of Virginia, Members since 2013, shipped the orphanage a care package that included something to which little Garrett immediately bonded: a Mickey Mouse plush toy. The Haughtons, who finally welcomed their new son home for the holidays in 2014, tell us that Mickey never leaves his side and that they look forward to Garrett meeting the real Mickey "real soon."