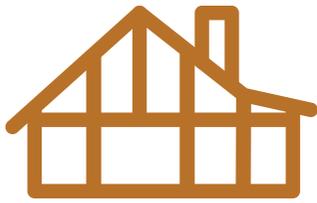


Disney FILES

MAGAZINE





WELCOME HOME

“Son, we’re moving to Oregon.” Hearing these words as a high school freshman in sunny Southern California felt – to a sensitive teenager – like cruel and unusual punishment.

Save for an 8-bit Oregon Trail video game that always ended with my player dying of dysentery, I knew nothing of this “Oregon.” As proponents extolled the virtues of Oregon’s picturesque Cascade Mountains, I couldn’t help but mourn the mountains I was leaving behind: Space, Big Thunder and the Matterhorn (to say nothing of Splash, which would open just months after our move). I was determined to be miserable. But soon, like a 1990s Tom Hanks character trying to avoid falling in love with Meg Ryan, I succumbed to the allure of the Pacific Northwest. I learned to ride a lawnmower (not without incident), adopted a pygmy goat and found myself enjoying things called “hikes” (like scenic drives without the car). I rafted white water, ate pink salmon and (at legal age) acquired a taste for lemon wedges in locally produced organic beer. I became an obnoxiously proud Oregonian.

So it stands to reason that, as adulthood led me back to Disney by way of Central Florida, I had a special fondness for Disney’s Wilderness Lodge. Inspired by the real grandeur of the Northwest but polished in a way that’s unmistakably Disney, it’s a place that feels perhaps less like the Oregon I *knew* and more like the Oregon I prefer to remember (while also being much closer to Space Mountain).

This summer’s opening of Copper Creek Villas & Cabins at Disney’s Wilderness Lodge begins the next chapter of the property’s pioneering story, creating a new frontier for today’s Member families and giving a nostalgic magazine editor more ways to return “home” without checking a bag or making a layover in Houston. Created as something of a love letter to the lodge, this edition of *Disney Files* Magazine proudly features Disney artist Don “Ducky” Williams’ Copper Creek cover art, Ken Potrock’s exploration of the resort’s richly layered back story (page 2), a photographic tour of the new villas (pages 3-8) and a “Community Kitchen” spotlight on the resort’s new Geyser Point Bar & Grill (pages 15-16). It’s our first in-depth exploration of this 14th addition to the neighborhood, and it makes me want to leash a goat, fire up a mower and thank my parents for teaching me that not every Oregon Trail leads to dysentery.

Welcome home,

Ryan March
Disney Files Editor



Illustration by Keelan Parham

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Please recycle this publication (or cherish it forever)

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DVC17-5697Z

The following important information applies to select offerings as noted in the pages ahead: You should not purchase a real estate interest in a Disney Vacation Club Resort in reliance upon the continued availability or renewal or extension of these offers. These offers may only be available to Members at various times and may or may not be renewed or extended. Membership Extras, such as vacation options in the Disney and Concierge Collections, certain discounts, offers and special events, are incidental benefits. These incidental benefits are subject to change or termination without notice, may require the payment of a fee and cannot be combined with any other offers or promotions. Membership Extras are also subject to availability, and block-out dates may apply, including high periods of demand, such as Christmas and New Year’s Day. To receive any Membership Extras, purchasers must present a valid Disney Vacation Club Membership Card, along with a corresponding valid photo ID. Disney and Concierge Collection options are not available for ownership interests not purchased directly from Disney Vacation Development, Inc., after March 21, 2011, and, effective April 4, 2016, Members who do not purchase an ownership interest directly from Disney Vacation Development, Inc., will not have access to Membership Extras.



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

Collaborating with Walt Disney Imagineers to create the resorts you call home and the amenities you cherish is a privilege I don't take for granted, and I found great joy in our latest collaboration: Copper Creek Villas & Cabins at Disney's Wilderness Lodge.

Like all Disney Vacation Club Resorts, this 14th addition to the neighborhood (and second at Disney's Wilderness Lodge) sets the stage for your vacation traditions with layer upon layer of signature Disney storytelling. This particular story begins in 19th century America, when pioneers rode the rails west to forge a new way of life. These travel-tested trailblazers built new communities along the First Transcontinental Railroad, including vacation lodges that would house waves of tourists by the turn of the 20th century.

Also riding the rails west in the early 20th century was a young Walt Disney, whose lifelong love of the trains would become evident in everything from his backyard's miniature Carolwood Pacific Railroad to his vision for Disneyland Park, a place he insisted be surrounded by a train.

Disney's Wilderness Lodge (opened in 1994) draws inspiration from that optimistic spirit of westward migration and those grand lodges of the U.S. National Parks, while our own Boulder Ridge Villas (opened in 2000 as The Villas at Disney's Wilderness Lodge) represent the residential communities that thrived in this new frontier.

As paved roads and friendly skies eventually replaced the rugged rails as Americans' preferred pathways, the same ingenuity that settled the West soon fueled these communities' resourceful reinvention, turning unused tracks into picturesque trails, abandoned quarries into rejuvenating wellsprings and industrial structures into welcoming spaces for new generations of travelers.

The latest evolution of Disney's Wilderness

Lodge celebrates this story of renewal through a variety of new and re-imagined spaces, from the now-open Geysers Point Bar & Grill (a former railroad depot now repurposed as a stunning lakeside restaurant) to Boulder Ridge Cove (the quarry-turned-pool area opening this summer).

Our new villas transform traditional hotel rooms into a wide range of refined accommodations for today's travelers, with Deluxe Studios, one- and two-bedroom villas, and three-bedroom Grand Villas turning salvaged steel into stylish support beams, earthen elements into furnishings and fine art, and more.

Rustically elegant Cascade Cabins, meanwhile, furnished to sleep as many as eight and designed with family gatherings in mind (with spacious living spaces, deluxe kitchens and majestic indoor-outdoor fireplaces among the standout features), give new life to vacated lakeshore homes said to have once housed the railway company's supervisors, site managers and VIPs.

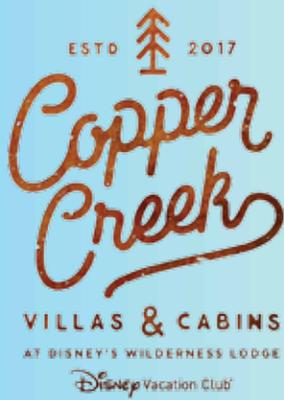
It's a story of reinvention that harkens back to our company's adventurous founder, who famously inspired us to "keep moving forward."

Immersing Member families in the grandeur of nature (just around the river bend from Magic Kingdom Park), the new accommodations and amenities build on the idea that, while industry can create *places*, only *people* can create *communities*. It's really a metaphor for Disney Vacation Club as a whole, a business pioneered by Disney but elevated as a *community* by Members like you.

So as we channel our inner Lewis and Clark (and Walt Disney), and prepare to introduce this new frontier for magical vacations - re-imagining existing spaces and blazing new trails - I'd like to take this moment to simply say thank you. As proud as we are of the place we've created, we know it simply wouldn't be a community without you.



*Not offered in all jurisdictions



A WHOLE NEW WILDERNESS

Walt Disney World Resort: Copper Creek Villas & Cabins at Disney's Wilderness Lodge is scheduled to open on July 17 as the 14th resort in the Disney Vacation Club community, the 10th at Walt Disney World Resort and the second at Disney's Wilderness Lodge. Celebrating the natural wonders of the Pacific Northwest and inspired by resourceful Westerners who reimagined former railroad towns for today's travelers, this new addition to the neighborhood will, upon completion, welcome Members home to 78 Deluxe Studios, 56 one-bedroom villas, 56 two-bedroom villas, four three-bedroom Grand Villas and 26 lakeside Cascade Cabins. *Disney Files* Magazine is pleased to present this photographic tour of the new Deluxe Studios, and one- and two-bedroom villas, and we look forward to exploring the resort further in future editions. In the meantime, embark on 360-degree virtual tours online at DisneyCopperCreek.com.





DELUXE STUDIOS

Furnished with a queen-size bed (set against a tree-ring-inspired headboard and draped with a bed scarf depicting a stylized map of the Pacific Northwest) and queen-size sleeper sofa, Deluxe Studios sleep as many as four. Storage spaces include a small pantry and additional cabinetry in kitchenettes, as well as a storage coffee table that also includes a rising table top to create a second eating area. Some Deluxe Studio bathrooms feature a walk-in shower, while others offer a tub-shower combo ideal for families traveling with children. In each case, the bathroom is concealed behind a sliding, space-saving “barn door” adorned with an over-sized, full-length mirror.





Living Room, Dining Area & Kitchen

ONE- AND TWO-BEDROOM VILLAS

One-bedroom villas sleep as many as four (one king-size bed, one queen-size sleeper sofa), while two-bedroom units sleep as many as eight (some two-bedroom units feature a king-size bed, a queen-size bed and two queen-size sleeper sofas, while others feature a king-size bed, two queen-size beds and a queen-size sleeper sofa). King beds feature expansive “live-edge” headboards emblematic of the villas’ rustically elegant aesthetic. Full kitchens (with “waterfall-edge” quartz countertops among the distinctive design elements) and stacked washer-dryer units are among the villas’ home-like amenities, which also include storage spaces hidden not only in the coffee tables (one in the second bedroom and a rising-top version in the living room), but also in the living rooms’ banquette seating. Split master bathrooms feature two private areas, one featuring a bubble-jet tub and vanity, and another featuring a walk-in shower, toilet and vanity. An eye-catching window image of geode glass connects the master bathroom to the master bedroom, providing colorful reflections in the morning and warm glows at night. Two-bedroom villas feature an additional bathroom, concealed behind an oversized-mirror-adorned barn door and equipped with a walk-in shower.





Master Bedroom



Master Bathroom

ATTENTION TO DETAIL

Exploring the new living spaces becomes particularly rewarding to those who take a closer look, as a vibrant array of details combine to tell a story rooted in both Pacific Northwest history and Disney lore. Here's a look at just a few of the many designs, materials, colors and textures livening up the living spaces.





Walt Disney's love of trains inspired the villas' inclusion of a framed Carolwood Pacific Railroad Pass, a reference to the miniature railroad (seen above) that famously carried family and friends through the backyard of Walt's Holmby Hills home.



This moose silhouette (right), one of the framed works of art adding distinctive Disney details to the villas, is a fitting tribute to the 2003 Walt Disney Animation Studios feature *Brother Bear* (above), a film that, like the resort itself, was created in Florida but set in the wilderness of the Pacific Northwest.





Sharing is caring

Member memories, insights fuel new social forums

Disney Vacation Club: There's so much that we share, that it's time we're aware, it's a small (digitally connected) world after all.

"Instagramming" and "Facebooking" have become common verbs in the global vernacular, and a growing number of Members are among the modern millions making real connections through these digital platforms. Whether sharing vacation memories on Instagram or vacation tips on Facebook, Members' inspiring and insightful social content has sparked the creation of two new outlets created with Members in mind.

The recently launched Disney Vacation Club Instagram page (@DisneyVacationClub) shares a wide range of Member- and fan-captured images (curated from posts using #DVCMember), along with a sprinkling of Disney-created images.

"When we started searching for Member posts on Instagram, we were immediately blown away, not only by the *quantity* of posts, but the *quality*," said Carol Chukwu, part of the Disney Vacation Club team behind the new Instagram page. "Members share incredibly engaging photos, capturing images that, frankly, we wish we had thought to shoot. Our new Instagram page is designed to help some of our favorite images reach more people than ever."

Also new this year is a Disney Vacation Club forum that leverages the increasingly popular platform of Facebook Groups. Whereas Facebook *pages* are designed as official profiles for entities and individuals, Facebook *Groups* invite people to come together around a common interest, cause or activity. More than 850 million people worldwide interact in Facebook Groups

each month.

The official Disney Vacation Club Facebook Group, known as Disney Vacation Club Neighborhood, connects Members with fans and each other, fostering open conversations without participation from Disney Vacation Club itself.

"Members continually tell us that part of what they enjoy most about Member events or communal spaces like the Member Lounge* at Epcot is meeting other Member families to swap stories, share tips and ask questions about getting the most out of their Membership," said Emma Martin, part of the Disney Vacation Club team behind the new Facebook Group. "Our new Facebook Group allows those organic conversations to take place between trips, and we're continually impressed by the questions asked and insights shared."

Remember to use #DVCMember on Instagram for a chance to see your photos featured on the new Instagram page, and to join the discussion in the new Facebook Group, visit [Facebook.com/groups/DisneyVacationClubNeighborhood](https://www.facebook.com/groups/DisneyVacationClubNeighborhood).

*See important eligibility information at the bottom of page 1





Community Calendar

As part of Disney Vacation Club's commitment to helping Members plan their vacations, *Disney Files* Magazine is pleased to highlight Member events* on tap for the season ahead and beyond. Please note that event dates, locations and other details are subject to change, and that further details (including pricing and registration information if applicable, as well as new events materializing after this magazine hits the press) debut on the Event Calendar online at disneyvacationclub.com when available. Located under the site's Plan Vacations tab, the calendar allows you to browse all events, sort by destination or event type, and more.

*With the exception of the Condominium Association Meeting and pool hopping, the events listed here are considered "Membership Extras," and eligibility restrictions apply. For details, please see the important information at the bottom of page 1.



**AROUND
THE
CORNER**

Disneyland Resort

- June 18: Disney Vacation Club Father's Day Lunch, Disney's Grand Californian Hotel & Spa

Walt Disney World Resort

- June 23 (previously planned for June 22) and 28, and July 5 and 13: Disney Vacation Club Moonlight Magic at Disney's Typhoon Lagoon Water Park (Please note the new date for the first Moonlight Magic event in June, which shifted from Thursday to Friday.)
- July 3: Disney Vacation Club Independence Day Dessert Party, Disney's Contemporary Resort



**DOWN
THE
ROAD**

Disneyland Resort

- Oct. 31: Disney Vacation Club Halloween Event, Disney's Grand Californian Hotel & Spa
- Nov. 15: Disney Vacation Club Moonlight Magic at Disneyland Park
- Dec. 24: Disney Vacation Club Holiday Dinner, Disney's Grand Californian Hotel & Spa

Walt Disney World Resort

- Sept. 6 and 13: Disney Vacation Club Moonlight Magic at Disney's Animal Kingdom Theme Park
- Oct. 31: Disney Vacation Club Halloween Event, Disney's Contemporary Resort
- Nov. 23: Disney Vacation Club Thanksgiving Dinner, Disney's Contemporary Resort
- Dec. 4 and 11: Disney Vacation Club Moonlight Magic at Epcot
- Dec. 24: Disney Vacation Club Holiday Dinner, Disney's Contemporary Resort

Condominium Association Meeting: Watch disneyvacationclub.com for time and location details for the annual condominium association meeting for all condominium associations, currently scheduled to take place on Dec. 7 at Walt Disney World Resort. Also note that, as part of its commitment to conservation, Disney Vacation Club offers Members the option of receiving email communications from their condominium association(s) instead of traditional mail. Simply update your contact preferences online at disneyvacationclub.com (look for the Condo Association News section within the My DVC Membership tab).



ONGOING

Disneyland Resort: A variety of Member events take place at, or begin from, Disney's Grand Californian Hotel & Spa, including Disney Vacation Club Fitness in the Park most Tuesday mornings from March–November and the Disney Vacation Club Neighborhood Powerwalk (weather permitting) on most Thursday mornings.

Walt Disney World Resort: Visit disneyvacationclub.com for complete details about Members' ability to "hop" to other eligible pools at select Walt Disney World Resorts during their vacation. The frequently updated site lists a variety of important rules and restrictions, including block-out dates.

Aulani: Member offerings at Aulani include the Member Maka'ika'i: Art & Nature Walking Tour of Aulani, beginning in the Maka'ala Lobby on most Wednesday and Sunday afternoons; and the Disney Vacation Club Member Culinary Dessert Demonstration at Makahiki – The Bounty of the Islands restaurant on most Thursday afternoons.

MEMBERSHIP EXTRAS PART OF



'Membership Extras' meet 'Enchanting Extras' Discover discounts in newly organized collection of elevated experiences

Walt Disney World Resort: Navigating the diverse array of elevated experiences available to add to your Walt Disney World vacation plans is easier than ever, thanks to the newly organized "Enchanting Extras Collection."

Available for exploration online at enchantingextras.com, the collection includes more than 70 experiences across eight distinctive categories: Unique Access Tours, Limited-Time Events, Nature Experiences, Adventures in Dining, Spectacular Sweet Spots, Make Believe & More, Rest & Recreation and Special Occasions. Many Enchanting Extras offer Disney Vacation Club Member discounts,* including these five that caught our attention (each offering a 15 percent discount):

Traveling the world: During the 5-hour World Showcase: DestiNations Discovered tour of Epcot, you'll experience the architecture, culture and people of 11 nations.

Breezing through classics: Led by Disney VIP Tour Guides, the 4-hour Ultimate Disney Classics VIP Tour expedites your enjoyment of as many as 10 classic Magic Kingdom attractions and includes a special meet-and-greet with the big cheese himself.

Trekking the trails: Wild Africa Trek, an immersive 3-hour experience at Disney's Animal Kingdom Theme Park, leads guests by private

safari vehicle and by foot through the Park's Safi River Valley, home to giraffes, rhinos, hippos, crocodiles and many other African animals. Guests work up an appetite along trails and rope bridges before enjoying African-inspired snacks at a private savanna overlook.

Caring for giants: The new Caring for Giants experience (pictured below left) offers unparalleled backstage views of African elephants, insights from dedicated animal care experts and interactions with African cultural representatives.

Entertaining the kids: Kids ages 3-12 create arts and crafts, play games, enjoy Disney movies and more at Children's Activity Centers (pictured below right), with three locations convenient to Disney Vacation Club Resorts - Simba's Clubhouse at Disney's Animal Kingdom Lodge, Sandcastle Club at Disney's Beach Club Resort and Lilo's Playhouse at Disney's Polynesian Village Resort.

For more details about these and other Member discounts at Walt Disney World Resort and beyond, visit the Member Benefits & More section of disneyvacationclub.com (part of the My DVC Membership tab), where you can sort offers by destination and benefit type.

*See important eligibility information at the bottom of page 1



Relaxation Ever After

Special spa services enhance and expand in 2017



Walt Disney World Resort: The popularity of the Silver Spa Service that launched in 2016 at Senses - A Disney Spa (both at Disney's Saratoga Springs Resort & Spa and at Disney's Grand Floridian Resort & Spa) has prompted the continuation and further enhancement of the service, as well as the extension of the service to Ship Shape Massage - Salon - Fitness at Disney's Yacht and Beach Club Resorts.

Presented in 2017 as part of Membership Magic Ever After*, the service adds special touches to Members' rejuvenating experience, from a plush Disney Vacation Club logo robe to enjoy at the spa to complimentary treats to take home.

This year's take-home treats include a collection of spa-product samples and a dark chocolate creation of The Ganachery at Disney Springs. The expanded menu of complimentary beverages available through the service now includes not only champagne, but also wine and beer at all three participating locations, as well as fresh-pressed coffee at the two Senses locations.

These special touches add to an ever-evolving menu of exclusive Disney Vacation Club services and treatments available to Members and their

guests, including new and enhanced options.

Look for the latest details about available treatments and packages online at disneyvacationclub.com (My DVC Membership tab, Member Benefits & More) before calling Member Services to book your treatment at Senses, or calling (407) WDW-SPAS (939-7727) to book your treatment at Ship Shape. Remember to present your valid Disney Vacation Club Membership Card and photo ID upon checkout at the spas to receive your 15 percent Member discount on spa services and retail items.



*See important eligibility information at the bottom of page 1

Soak up the summer savings

Disney Store offers limited-time Member discount



Disney Store: Disney Vacation Club Members may save 15% on eligible purchases of \$75 or more* at Disney Store locations in North America through Aug. 1.

While there, look for the latest swimwear styles featuring characters from "Mickey and the Roadster Racers," "Elena of Avalor," *Beauty and the Beast*, *Moana*, *Star Wars*, *The Avengers* and more.

To take advantage of this limited-time discount, present your valid Disney Vacation Club Membership Card and photo ID at the register, and either present the barcode on this page or ask to use promo code 5921.



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*Valid May 1, 2017 (12:01 am PST) through August 1, 2017 (11:59 pm PST) or while supplies last, whichever occurs first, on select, in-stock merchandise purchased at Disney Store and Disney Baby Store North America retail and outlet locations. Not valid on purchases made at Disney Parks and Resorts locations. Limit one coupon or promotion code per Guest. Qualifying purchase threshold is based on a single sales transaction, pre-tax, post discount amount. Offer excludes select items. See store for details. Offer cannot be combined with any other offer or discount except available shipping offers. No adjustments to prior purchases. Merchandise subject to availability. Returns and exchanges will be subject to discount taken at time of purchase. Valid receipt required for returns or exchanges. Coupon or promotion code is non-transferable, not refundable and has no cash value in whole or in part. Offer subject to restrictions and change without notice. Void where prohibited.



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 pirate-themed submission, presented as *Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Men Tell No Tales* sails into U.S. theaters, comes from Roy Fiorino of New York, Member since 2010.

Roy Fiorino's private pirate paradise is a swashbuckling salute, not only to one of his favorite attractions, but also to one of his favorite people. What began as a modest Pirates of the Caribbean theme became an epic environment inspired by the courage of a close friend and avid Disney fan named Kelly as she battled a life-threatening disease. Determined to bring his friend joy in the twilight of her life, Roy transformed his backyard into a playful pirate's lair, complete with a ship named in Kelly's honor. While Kelly lost her fight in 2014, Roy continues to expand his backyard display in her memory. It's piracy with a purpose, and *Disney Files Magazine* is honored to celebrate his vision – and the departed friend for whom it still grows.



Love all things pirates? Whether you're preparing to visit Disney's Vero Beach Resort on Florida's Treasure Coast this summer or dropping anchor closer to home, explore natural treasures of the pirate world – from the stars by which pirates charted their course to the creatures inhabiting the oceans they crossed – by downloading a complimentary *Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Men Tell No Tales* Activity Packet online at Disney.com/pirates.

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

As the heat of summer inspires many Members to begin dreaming up winter vacation plans, *Disney Files* Magazine focuses its “Picture This” lens on Finland, one of many winter wonderlands available through our friends at RCI*. Recognized as being among the best places on Earth to spot the Northern Lights (appearing on more than 200 nights a year, with the most optimal views typically enjoyed from December-April), the Finnish Lapland even lays claim to being the home of Santa Claus. See if you can spot the seven things we’ve altered in this hard-to-believe-it’s-real photo, and visit disneyvacationclub.com to learn more about the thousands of World Collection exchange options at your fingertips as part of Membership Magic Ever After.

*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. RCI and related marks are registered trademarks and/or service marks in the United States and internationally. All rights reserved.



original



altered

ANSWERS: From left to right, (1) the tree furthest left in the photo has grown taller, (2) the tallest tree to the left of the snow tracks now leans further north, (3) a shadow in the foreground of that same tree has disappeared, (4) a band of Northern Lights near the center of the image now extends further north, (5) the snow tracks have become narrower, (6) a mound of snow to the right of the tree has vanished and (7) a snowy Mickey head now tops a tree on the right side of the photo.

community kitchen

restaurant spotlight

Disney's Wilderness Lodge: The new **Geyser Point Bar & Grill** is now open at Disney's Wilderness Lodge.

Positioned along the shores of Bay Lake between the Copper Creek Springs and Boulder Ridge Cove pool areas, the cedar-and-stone structure appears to repurpose a former railroad depot. Inside, breakfast, lunch, dinner and snack options elevate American classics with distinctive tastes of the Pacific Northwest, including Asian flavors prevalent in the Oregon and Washington food scene.

The open-air bar and grill offers a domestic beer selection that includes Pacific Northwest favorites on tap, artisanal cocktails featuring liquors from Pacific Northwest distilleries and an array of small-plate foods that include the signature "Shrimp on a Wire" with miso-lime

vinaigrette, Togarashi (Japanese red chili peppers), Shishito peppers and chili aioli.

A separate menu of savory and sweet food options are available at a quick-service window, including a bison burger topped with Oregon-produced Tillamook Cheddar cheese; a house-smoked salmon BLT sandwich with lemon-caper mayonnaise; a grilled Portobello, zucchini, roasted red pepper, tomato and multi-grain salad with goat cheese; a chocolate brownie mousse with caramel popcorn and toasted meringue; and a house-made seasonal pie.

Whether ordering a cocktail and small plate at the bar or a larger meal from the quick-service window, Members and guests enjoy comfortably covered seating areas that offer picturesque views of Bay Lake and the nightly Electrical Water Pageant.



Black Cherry Mule

Highlighting a new dining destination in the neighborhood without taste-testing the menu wouldn't just be a missed opportunity. It would be irresponsible. It's with that dedication to journalistic integrity in mind that the *Disney Files* staff proudly shares the rustically refreshing recipe for a handcrafted cocktail we faithfully sampled at the new Geyser Point Bar & Grill at Disney's Wilderness Lodge - the Black Cherry Mule. It's fruity without being sweet, tart without being sour, and it may be our favorite showing of a Disney mule since Gus kicked the California Atoms to victory. (Shout out to anyone who got that obscure 1976 movie reference.)

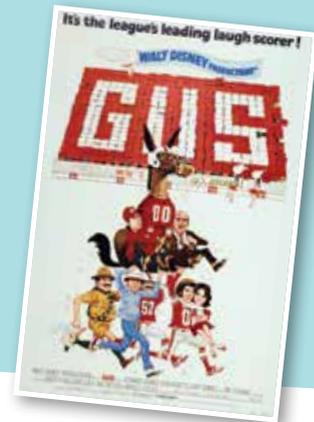
Makes: 1 cocktail

Ingredients:

- ½ ounce fresh lime juice
- ¼ ounce agave nectar
- 2 ounces black cherry vodka
- Ginger beer
- Lime wheel for garnish

Steps:

1. Add ice to a 12-ounce glass (or copper mug if you have one). Set aside.
2. In a separate mixing glass or shaker, combine lime juice, agave nectar and vodka. Strain into your drinking glass (or copper mug).
3. Fill your chosen drinking vessel with ginger beer and stir gently.
4. Garnish with lime wheel, and enjoy!



Gus...our second favorite Disney mule.





neighborhood notes

new or noteworthy in our magical community

PARDON OUR Pixie Dust

Refurbishment news from around the neighborhood*

Boulder Ridge Villas at Disney's Wilderness Lodge: Crews are continuing to transform the former Hidden Springs Pool area into Boulder Ridge Cove. The re-imagined retreat, highlighted in the winter 2016 edition of Disney Files Magazine and noted in the spring 2017 installment of this column, remains on schedule to open in July with an expanded sun deck and zero-depth-entry pool in what appears to have been an abandoned rock quarry.

Disney's Wilderness Lodge: The quick-service Roaring Fork restaurant at Disney's Wilderness Lodge, closed for refurbishment since mid-February, is scheduled for a mid-July reopening. The refreshed space will feature a repositioned checkout area designed to improve guest flow, new video menu boards and reach-in coolers, and a covered, open-air seating area that adds another option for Members and guests looking to dine in the great outdoors. Elsewhere at the Lodge, the recent opening of Geyser Point Bar & Grill (see pages 15-16) has enabled the re-imagining of the former Trout Pass Pool Bar area, which will become Salon by the Springs, offering a variety of manicure, pedicure and other salon services. Disney Files Magazine will share more details as they become available.

Disney's Old Key West Resort: The two-year renovation of villas at our community's flagship resort, reported in the spring edition of Disney Files Magazine, remains on schedule to begin later this year, updating bathrooms, floors, furnishings and décor.

Disney's Grand Californian Hotel & Spa: Work on the resort's pool area, including routine pool maintenance and the replacement of the pool deck, is scheduled for completion by the time this magazine mails.

*Due to the nature of construction, dates and designs are subject to change.



Disney's BoardWalk entertainment district:

Trattoria al Forno, the popular Disney's BoardWalk restaurant known for its Old World Italian breakfasts and dinners, has introduced a new "Bon Voyage" character breakfast experience starring Ariel and Prince Eric of *The Little Mermaid*, and Rapunzel and Flynn Ryder (aka: Eugene Fitzherbert) of *Tangled*. Priced at \$34 plus tax for adults and \$20 plus tax for kids ages 3-9, the breakfast begins with fruit and a frying pan of pastries before continuing with playful options ranging from "Tangled Eggs" with fresh mozzarella, Sunday gravy and roasted potatoes to a "Tower of Pancakes" with bacon or sausage to a "Swimmers di 'light'" that pairs a smoked salmon egg white omelet with spinach, mushrooms, tomatoes, goat cheese and roasted potatoes. Reservations are available through Member Services, online at disneyworld.com/dining and through the My Disney Experience app.

Disney's Vero Beach Resort: Did you know that fishing lessons are available at Disney's Vero Beach Resort? Priced at \$35 a person, the 90-minute "Fishing FUNdamentals" experience at the resort's private lake teaches the basics of fresh-water, catch-and-release fishing. Reservations are available through Eb & Flo's Rentals after you've checked into the resort. For more fun in the sun this summer, catch the

Turtle events highlight 'dog' days of summer

Disney's Vero Beach Resort: The dog days of summer bring one of the most highly anticipated events to the Treasure Coast, as the annual "Tour de Turtles" returns to the shores of Disney's Vero Beach Resort on July 29. A tradition for nearly a decade, the ecological event invites families to gather on the beach as Cast Members from Disney's Animals, Science and Environment team partner with the Sea Turtle Conservancy to release sea turtles tagged with satellite-telemetry devices that allow researchers and enthusiasts alike to track the turtles' marathon-like migration.

The event is just part of a busy sea turtle nesting season for the resort, which also allows Members and guests to embark on Sea Turtle Night Walk experiences on select nights in June and July. Participants learn about local sea turtles before enjoying a guided walk on a nearby beach for a chance to watch a sea turtle lay her eggs, cover her nest and return to the sea.

Participating in the walk helps protect these endangered creatures, as 100 percent of the proceeds from the nonrefundable \$35-a-person registration fee supports Disney sea turtle monitoring, public education and scientific study at the resort.

Call Member Services to make advance reservations for this summer's available walks, and please note that this experience is limited to participants ages 8 or older, that those ages 8-17 must be accompanied by a paying adult and that the walks' itinerary, content, duration and availability are subject to change without notice.

Speaking of the dog days of summer, a delightful dog named Dory (pictured above) has become the latest canine conservationist to help Cast Members locate sea turtle nests for documentation and protection – a successful method previously pioneered with help from a pocket beagle named Captain Ron. Keep an eye out for paw prints in the sand, and you may "find Dory" on the beach!



resort's complimentary "Beach Blast Thursdays," a weekly celebration of life on the beach, complete with beach volleyball games, a sand-creation competition and a beach-themed pool party.

DisneyVacationClub.com: Making annual dues payments and updating your contact information are among the functions available to Members anytime online at disneyvacationclub.com. A variety of payment-method options, including Disney Gift Cards and Disney Reward Redemption cards, are accepted for annual dues payments on the site (My DVC Membership tab, My Membership, Annual Dues). When updating your mailing address online (My DVC Membership tab, Profile Settings), please note that you're doing so only for yourself. Others listed on your

Membership must change their own information.

Member Services: We've all heard – and likely ignored – those automated recordings asking us to "please listen carefully, as our menu options may have changed." As the *Disney Files* staff admits to bypassing these messages like Chicken Little's neighbors ignoring forecasts of a falling sky, we thought you'd appreciate knowing before your next call to Member Services that their menu options really are changing soon. Listen carefully to the newly recorded voice, which will lead you through streamlined options designed to more efficiently connect you with a Vacation Advisor. Also note that, for your protection, you'll need to provide identifying information to each Vacation Advisor who serves you.

PANDORA'S PLACE

How a 'World' of fantasy
befits a 'Kingdom' of reality

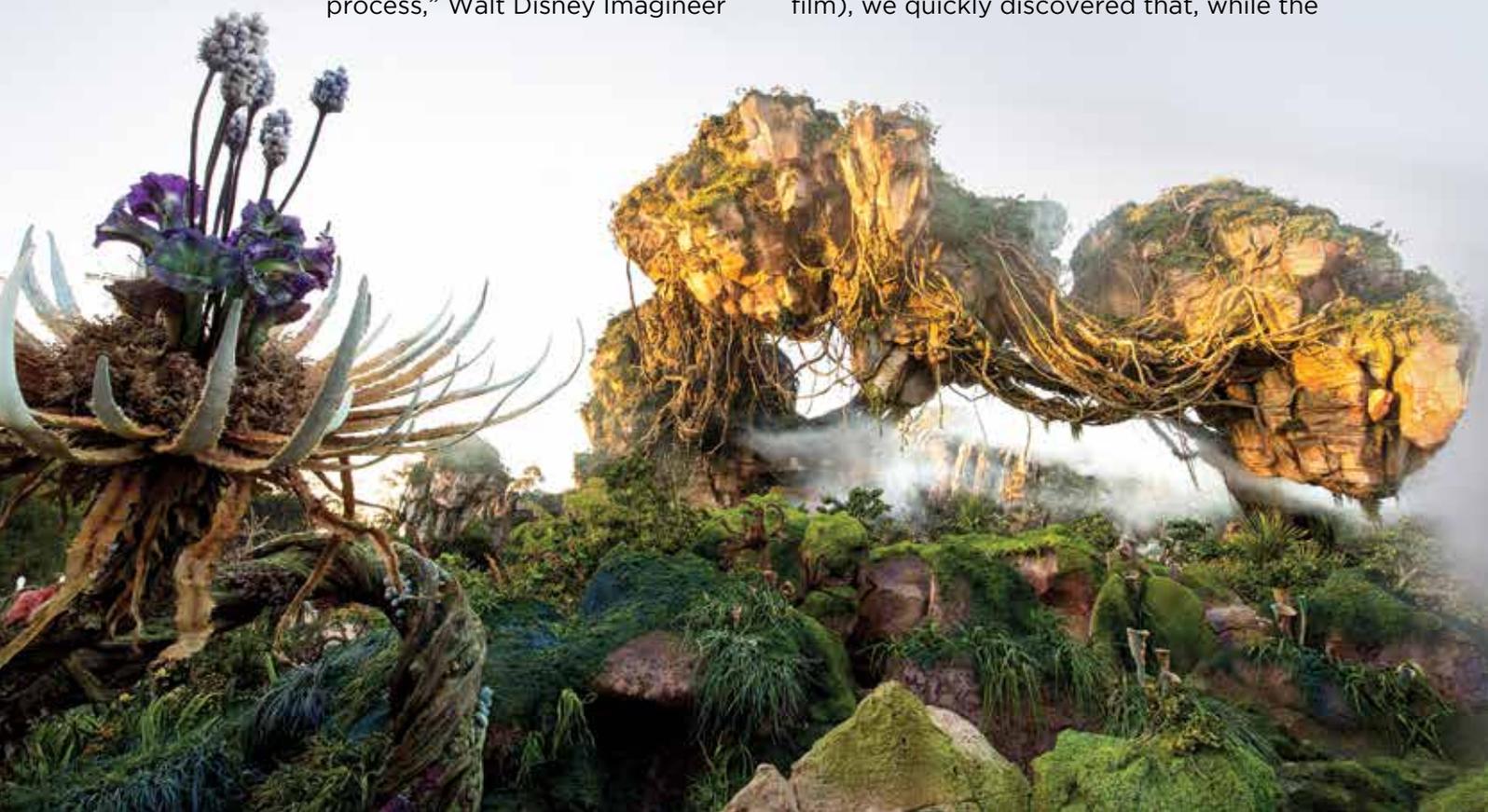
Walt Disney World Resort: The scheduled May 27 opening of Pandora – The World of Avatar adds a new dimension to Disney's Animal Kingdom Theme Park, deviating from the Park's transformative explorations of Earth to transport guests to another planet altogether. Inspired by James Cameron's record-shattering 2009 film but enriched with details uniquely required of real-world environments, the extraterrestrial land will invite guests to explore the deepest and darkest reaches of a bioluminescent forest through the Na'vi River Journey, soar through a Pandoran jungle on the back of a Mountain Banshee during the Avatar Flight of Passage, enjoy local cuisine at the Satu'li Canteen, shop for cultural treasures at the Windtraders marketplace and more.

So how does a fantasy world from the silver screen complement a Park so deeply rooted in reality?

"It's a fair question, and it's one we asked ourselves at the beginning of the design process," Walt Disney Imagineer

Joe Rohde acknowledged. "We got to the answer the way we always have, by doing the homework. You read the books, do the thinking, make the charts and draw the diagrams. You get it right in your head before you start the actual design work. We went back to what Disney's Animal Kingdom is all about: *the intrinsic value of nature, transformation through adventure and a personal call to action*. Those themes are at the heart of *Avatar*. So when you run this cinematic world through that filter like dough through a pasta press, squeezing out everything that represents those shared values, you start to create a place that belongs at Disney's Animal Kingdom.

"It's called Pandora – The World of Avatar, not *Avatar – The Movie*. You're going to the planet Pandora, and we've done everything in our power to make this planet as believable and real as possible. In working closely with the incredible team at Lightstorm (the James Cameron-led production company behind the film), we quickly discovered that, while the





Use your smartphone's QR code reader to access an insightful video in which Walt Disney Imagineer Joe Rohde and his colleagues further discuss the place-making of Pandora.

movie gives the remarkable sense of being photo-real, the fleeting nature of settings in a film simply don't require the same level of detail you need to create a believable environment in the real world. So we had this great opportunity to design those details.

"And detail is a funny thing. Disney Vacation Club Members are among the Theme Park aficionados who fully understand the concept of berms - those strategically placed walls, hills and other barriers that prevent you from seeing contradictions to the story being told. Details are like inner berms. When you inspect something up close, you don't want to think, 'Wait a minute, this is fiberglass!' This is Disney's Animal Kingdom - a deliberately imperfect place that's *real*, where real animals do real animal things and, in many cases, are surrounded by real flies. So Pandora has to stand up to that level of scrutiny.

"I remember watching the model builders, for example, as they began sculpting all of these vines that play such a big role in our exterior environments. They were beautiful, but they weren't *real*. They looked like *fantasy* vines, and they looked that way because we were making them up. We needed vines that look like real vines that do real things in a real biological world, so we went to a rainforest to study real vines. That led to a much more crisp and accurate depiction."

Not all research required a trek into the jungle. Even routine flights between Los Angeles and Orlando became lofty laboratories.

"Sometimes research is as simple as keeping your eyes open and paying attention," Joe shared. "I'm on a plane almost every week, so I can look out my window and do research. We're creating an experience in which people will fly. So what's it like to be up high, to look down into a canyon? These are details you can't leave to chance, because the moment you do, it shifts from being real to becoming fantasy, and you

can immediately tell the difference."

Set in a time period a full generation removed from the events of Cameron's landmark film, Pandora - The World of Avatar doubles as a cautionary tale that underscores the Park's personal call to action.

"We're visiting Pandora at a time of peace, with the indigenous Na'vi welcoming us to a beautiful place that's a bit like an eco-resort, where we can learn to be better stewards of our own planet from the lessons of Pandora," Joe explained. "It also remains a cleanup site, with ruins of the mining and conflict we saw in the film still visible in the forest."

As the magic of nature comes to life nightly in the Park with everything from The Tree of Life "awakening" to the new Rivers of Light show, Pandora transforms through the glowing magic of bioluminescence.

"It's a profoundly different environment after dark," Joe said. "And it's not as simple as turning on lights. It's this whole relationship of interconnectivity that these glowing life forms have with guests and each other. It's deeply interactive."

Asked to share one of his favorite details on Pandora, Joe pointed to a "ritual cavern" that guests will enter before their Avatar Flight of Passage experience begins. Inside the cavern, guests will explore the tradition of Na'vi-Banshee flight through images inspired by the unique styles of Native American cave paintings but designed to not remind guests of anything they've seen.

"The style aims to reinforce that sense of adventure in the unknown while still being grounded in reality," Joe said. "It's emblematic of everything we're doing with Pandora, a place that fits handsomely within the evolution of Disney's Animal Kingdom because it shares the Park's value system, high level of believability and painstaking attention to detail."



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BUZZWORTHY

8 stories • 2 pages • 1 space ranger



Artist rendering – proposed

Disney Cruise Line: The Disney Fantasy ship will debut a variety of new offerings during its May 17 voyage. Among the dry-dock additions are the Disney Oceaneers Club's new *Star Wars: Command Post* and Marvel Super Hero Academy areas for kids (the latter of which is depicted in the rendering above), the pool deck's new Sweet on You ice cream shop and the cruise line's first Tiffany & Co. jewelry shop. Elsewhere in the fleet, the hit, live-action adaptation of *Beauty and the Beast* is the inspiration behind a new Disney Dream stage production set to debut aboard the ship's Nov. 6 voyage. Employing the scenic motif of a music box, the production blends classic storytelling elements with cutting-edge technology, lavish costumes and puppetry, and show-stopping musical numbers, including classic songs written by Disney Legends Alan Menken and Howard Ashman for the animated film's soundtrack, and newer songs created for the live-action film by Menken and fellow Disney Legend Tim Rice.

Disneyland Resort: The scheduled May 27 opening of the new Guardians of the Galaxy – Mission: BREAKOUT! attraction (showcased in the winter 2016 edition of *Disney Files Magazine*) at Disney California Adventure Park kicks off the Park's "Summer of Heroes." Through

Sept. 10, guests will #HeroUp for such limited-time experiences as an interactive "Avengers Training Initiative" and a "Heroic Encounter" with Black Widow, while also discovering such new, year-round, Marvel-themed offerings as a "Guardians of the Galaxy: Awesome Dance Off!" and encounters with Groot, Captain America and Spider-Man. In other Disneyland Resort news, this season at Disneyland Park brings the reopening of the Disneyland Railroad and Rivers of America, the latter of which will enable the return of Fantasmic! later this summer.

runDisney: The magic of running with Disney can happen anywhere, thanks to the *runDisney* Virtual Running Shorts Series. Returning this summer by popular demand, these virtual races allow walkers, joggers and runners of all fitness levels to participate in Disney-themed 5Ks at their own pace and on their own course, be it their local track, their neighborhood streets or even on a treadmill. Runners register online, select their race(s), complete their race(s) at their own pace and receive a specially designed Finisher Medal. This year's medals celebrate Mickey's faithful canine companion, Pluto, and the lineup even includes a 1K race option designed for participants to complete with their dogs. To learn more about the series, visit runday.com/virtual-running-shorts.

Walt Disney World Resort: This summer brings guests' final opportunity to enjoy DisneyQuest at Disney Springs West Side, as the indoor, interactive Theme Park is scheduled to close after its last day of operations on July 2 to make way for the development of The NBA Experience at Walt Disney World Resort, featuring a restaurant, retail store, hands-on activities and immersive video productions. Also wrapping on the West Side in 2017 is Cirque du Soleil *La Nouba*, which will take its final bow on Dec. 31 after more than 8,500 performances.



Trip Tip: Looking for a new watering hole at Epcot? Now adjacent to the Trading Post Merchandise Shop in the Canada pavilion is Trading Post Refreshments, serving Canadian beers (Molson, Labatt Blue and Blanche de Chambly) and ice wines (Neige and Inniskillin).

Walt Disney World Resort: The Polite Pig, now open in the Town Center neighborhood of Disney Springs, is giving Walt Disney World guests a taste of a thriving Central Florida food scene. Offering a modern and more seasonal take on traditional barbecue, the chef-driven eatery is a sister restaurant to The Ravenous Pig, a critically acclaimed dining destination in nearby Winter Park, Fla. “Our guests experience what Winter Park has loved about The Ravenous Pig, including perfectly brined, rubbed and smoked seafood and meat, house-brewed beers, cocktails on tap and an extensive high-end bourbon bar, all in a fast-casual setting with reasonable prices,” proprietor James Petrakis told *Disney Files Magazine*.

Walt Disney World Resort: The new nighttime spectacular “Happily Ever After” is scheduled to have replaced “Wishes” at Magic Kingdom Park by the time this magazine mails. The 18-minute show features an explosive array of fireworks, lasers and choreographed spotlights, all set to a musical score recorded by a 75-piece orchestra in London. Inside the Park, guests see characters and scenes from more than 25 Disney films come to life through state-of-the-art projections on Cinderella Castle, as well as Tinker Bell’s famous flight overhead. Use your smartphone’s QR code reader to unlock a behind-the-scenes look at “Happily Ever After.”



Tokyo Disney Resort: The beloved nighttime processional Tokyo Disneyland Electrical Parade Dreamlights is scheduled to return to Tokyo Disneyland Park on July 11, enhanced with LED lighting and featuring five new floats. Also scheduled to begin on July 11 is the Park’s annual “Disney Natsu Matsuri” (Japanese for

“Disney summer festival”), featuring Japanese lanterns, traditional music and water-spraying dance floats in front of Cinderella Castle. New pirate-themed live-entertainment experiences, meanwhile, are debuting this summer at both Tokyo Disney Resort Theme Parks, including a new show featuring Captain Jack Sparrow at Mediterranean Harbor at Tokyo DisneySea Park. The new film *Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Men Tell No Tales*, opening in U.S. theaters on May 26, sails into Japanese cinemas on July 1.



Artist rendering - proposed

Hong Kong Disneyland Resort: Disney Explorers Lodge, depicted in the artist rendering above, is scheduled to have opened at Hong Kong Disneyland Resort by the time this magazine mails. The new, seven-story resort invites guests to live by the motto “ad explorare et somniare,” which means “to explore and dream.” The 750 rooms feature a view of the open sea or one of four lushly themed gardens. The gardens share their names with characters from Walt Disney Animation Studios and Pixar Animation Studios films, including the Asian-themed “Hathi Jr. Garden” (named for the baby elephant in *The Jungle Book*), the African-themed “Rafiki Garden” (named for the wise mandrill from *The Lion King*), the South American-themed “Kevin Garden” (named for the giant bird in *Up*) and the Oceania-themed “Little Squirt Garden” (named for the young sea turtle in *Finding Nemo*).

TRUE GRIT

Cars 3 flips the script with a story for the ages

“We definitely freaked some people out, and that was kind of the goal,” *Cars 3* Creative Director Jay Ward told *Disney Files Magazine* of the film’s teaser trailer, in which a racetrack collision sends a wrecked Lightning McQueen flipping through the air. “We wanted to turn over the apple cart, so to speak. This is a grittier *Cars* that will really surprise some people.”

Racing into U.S. theaters on June 16, *Cars 3* finds the legendary Lightning McQueen making the difficult but inevitable transition from young hot shot to aging star, being pushed out of the sport he loves by a new generation of blazing-fast racers. To get back in the game, he’ll need the help of an eager young race technician with her own plan to win, and a healthy dose of inspiration from the late Fabulous Hudson Hornet.

“We knew that McQueen isn’t a young car anymore, and it led us to think about where athletes find themselves in the later stages of their careers, when they’ve been a champions for years but are now facing the potential finish line,” said Jay, a self-described “gear head” whose immense car knowledge led him to become Pixar’s creative guardian of all things *Cars*, from feature films to Theme Park developments and consumer products. “We interviewed [now-retired, four-time NASCAR champion] Jeff Gordon, who voiced Jeff Gorvette in *Cars 2*, and he shared with us the feelings that come from watching young racers with far less experience begin passing you by as you work harder than ever to get the same – or even lesser – results. That really touched us, and it

became our hook.”

Fueled by the understanding that Father Time is undefeated, the Pixar filmmakers crafted a story for the ages, with deference paid to cars young and old, including the legendary Doc Hudson, who once struggled to command the attention of a younger McQueen.

To help illustrate a generational divide as true in the real world as it is in Radiator Springs, Director Brian Fee challenged Jay and the team to imagine their grandfather when he was 20 years old.

“It’s hard for you to see him in that context when you’ve only known him as an older man,” Jay said. “But he was a young man once too. So we thought about how interesting it would be to hear stories of a young Doc Hudson. When Doc said [in the first *Cars* film] ‘You think I quit, but they quit on me,’ what happened? Who did that to him? We get to explore that in this film, which we’re incredibly excited to share.”

Befitting the grit of this emotional story are visual details that deliberately knock the polish off the world of *Cars* we’ve come to know.

“With today’s rendering and lighting and shading, we can pull off some amazing things,” Jay said of the advancements in computer animation since *Cars 2*. “Polished paint and perfect chrome is, at this point, the easier route, and we purposely didn’t go completely that way in this film. There’s a deliberately

eerie quality to the visual grit we've added to *Cars 3*. You almost smell it and feel it as much as you see it."

Asked how he feels knowing that younger generations of car enthusiasts may have become gear heads by watching the films he helps create, Jay put the passage of time in startling perspective.

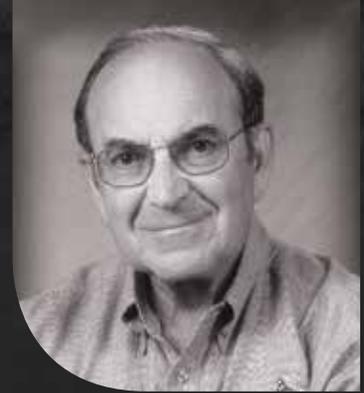
"We had a press conference at this year's DAYTONA 500 with our NASCAR voice talent, including four young drivers who have cameo roles in the film," Jay explained. "One of them is Daniel Suárez, the first Mexican citizen to win a NASCAR race (and a championship). During the press conference, he said, 'When I was a boy, I had Lightning McQueen posters on my wall.' I thought, 'Wow, that's right. He was just a kid when *Cars* first came out.' That's pretty cool."

The power of the *Cars* films to inspire, not just tomorrow's professional racers, but future motorists in communities everywhere is, for Jay, the ultimate victory.

"There are generations of kids today who, when they turn 16, would rather have a laptop than an automobile," Jay said. "When I was young, I couldn't wait to get behind the wheel and experience that freedom. What the *Cars* films have begun to do is make many kids who may not otherwise appreciate a new vehicle, much less a classic car, suddenly have an interest. That, to me, is the biggest win."



Disney Files Magazine is proud to feature the unparalleled perspectives of Disney Legend Marty Sklar, a longtime Walt Disney Imagineering leader who continues to inspire in retirement, penning such insightful books as *Dream it! Do it! My Half Century Creating Disney's Magic Kingdoms* and *One Little Spark! Mickey's Ten Commandments and the Road to Imagineering*. Disney Files readers may email Marty at marty@martysklarcreative.com.



Still more of the best advice I ever heard (or read)

By Disney Legend Marty Sklar

Continuing my column featured in the spring 2017 edition of *Disney Files Magazine*, I'm pleased to now share the last in my latest collection of the best advice I ever heard or read from great achievers. So please join me for another few moments of inspiration.

“When everything works, it reassures people that the world can be okay.”

John Hench, Senior Vice President of Design, Walt Disney Imagineering

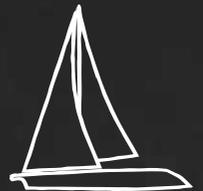
John Hench's design career spanned more years than anyone in the history of The Walt Disney Company. From the time he joined Disney as a sketch artist working on *Fantasia* in 1939 until his passing in 2004 – still working nearly 65 years later at age 95 – he was one of Walt Disney's closest associates. His achievements ranged from painting the first official portrait of Mickey Mouse (at Walt's request), to the design of Space Mountain and Epcot's Spaceship Earth. He was my design partner in the creation of Epcot.

John believed passionately in the power of good design to set an example. Once they experience the world *inside* Disney Parks, where you can speak to a stranger in a public place that is clean and organized and where things actually work, John argued that guests would know that “the outside world” can also achieve those standards. In a travelling show we developed with the Canadian Center for Architecture, John even named the show and the Disney standard: *“The Architecture of Reassurance.”*

“Twenty years from now, you will be more disappointed by the things you didn't do than by the ones you do.”

Mark Twain, Author and Novelist.

Can you imagine that Samuel Langhorne Clemens (aka Mark Twain) was born in 1835? Of course he is best known for his stories of life on the Mississippi in the 19th century, immortalized in *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer (1876)* and *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn (1885)*. But when I ran across this quote, I realized it could be the mantra for our whole industry. Here's the full quote and advice from Mark Twain: “Twenty years from now, you will be more disappointed by the things you didn't do than by the ones you do. So throw off the bow lines. Sail away from the safe harbor. Catch the trade winds in your sails. Explore. Dream. Discover.”



“Does it have to be a light bulb?”

Kevin Rafferty, Executive Creative Director, Walt Disney Imagineering

When Disney published the first major hard cover, coffee table book about Imagineering in 1996 (*“Walt Disney Imagineering – A Behind The Dreams Look at Making the Magic Real”*), it began with this Q and A by Kevin Rafferty: “How many Imagineers does it take to change a light bulb?” Kevin's answer: “Does it have to be a light bulb?” That response simply and directly



hit the heart of the spirit of discovery and innovation in our industry.

As I later wrote in the section of *"One Little Spark!"* called *Be Curious*: "When you ask 'why' or 'what if,' you have an inquisitive mind that can lead to new directions and discoveries. Be eager to know and try more: *be curious!*"

"Understand the meaning of what you are communicating."

Donn Tatum, Vice Chairman, Walt Disney Productions (circa 1970s)

One day, Donn Tatum asked to speak to the creative leader of Imagineering – me. It was a quiet but very pointed conversation. "Marty," Donn asked, "do you look at the illustrations of our projects your artists create?"

"Of course," I answered. "Those illustrations are what we use in the development of our projects, and to communicate the fun and adventure to our guests."

"Yes, I know," Tatum responded. "Only next time, pay more attention to *the faces and people* depicted in the illustrations."

Here's what I found: there was hardly a black or Latin or Asian face in any of the illustrations! My bad. So guess what Commandment Number 1 in *"Mickey's Ten Commandments"* became? You are correct if you said *"Know Your Audience."*

In *"One Little Spark!*, I expressed it this way: "I can't imagine beginning any assignment without knowing the prime audience for your story or product. How you communicate, what you communicate, is totally influenced by who you identify as your target audience."

"It's kind of fun to do the impossible."

Walt Disney

On my home-office wall, I have a photograph of Walt Disney demonstrating how he wanted an early Audio-Animatronics figure to "perform." Bob Gurr, the great Disney designer who made the original Abraham Lincoln figure work for the 1964 New York World's Fair, says the concept

Walt was demonstrating *did not work*.

"Actually," Gurr said, "it was impossible."

Of course, it eventually worked, and today, we have not only "Abraham Lincoln," but the singing children of "it's a small world," a dragon in a Parisian castle, Buzz Lightyear, the iconic swashbuckling buccaners of *Pirates of the Caribbean* (if you haven't seen Davy Jones in Shanghai Disneyland's "Pirates of the Caribbean: Battle for the Sunken Treasure," you have missed "the impossible!") and more.

My second note about Walt Disney's advice is about the word "fun." Lest we forget that's the business we're in, and the expectation of our guests who pay the bills. But as I frequently told my colleagues at Imagineering, it's about them too. If you're not having fun in the "fun business," find something else to do!

HAVE FUN

"Make every day your masterpiece."

UCLA Basketball Coach John Wooden

As the Sports Editor of *The Daily Bruin* student newspaper, I covered the UCLA basketball team for two years, observing the coach who would later win an unprecedented 10 NCAA championships in a 12-year span. When Coach Wooden passed away at age 99, I decided to review six books written with the philosopher-coach ... all of which I had previously read.

Coach Wooden's philosophy of life is inspirational. I wanted to end this "Best Advice" article with the above quote, but I had a hard time getting past other wisdom from John Wooden: "Failure to prepare is preparing to fail" ... "Have the most concern for *what's right* – not *who's right*" ... "When you are through learning, you are through."

But how can you top "Make every day your masterpiece?" If you live your life with that attitude, you will definitely "love what you do." And I'm positive you will also be "doing what you love."



A pirate's life for we

By Jim Korkis

"Yo ho, yo ho, a pirate's life for me! We're beggars and blighters and ne'er do well cads, drink up me 'earties, yo ho! Aye, but we're loved by our mommies 'n dads ... and millions of Disney fans, yo ho!"

Apologies to Disney Legend X Atencio for messing up his iconic song lyrics at the end there, but those pirate mommies and dads are far from alone in loving these rascals, scoundrels, villains and knaves. This year marks the milestone 50th anniversary of the original Pirates of the Caribbean attraction (the last Disneyland attraction developed under the personal supervision of Walt Disney), and with a fifth installment of its namesake film franchise returning Captain Jack Sparrow to the screen this summer and Pirates of the Caribbean attractions delighting guests in California, Florida, Japan, France and China, fans' love of pirates continues to run deep.

This 50th anniversary year gives me pause to reflect on a 1998 conversation I had with Disney Legend Marc Davis (one of the key creative forces behind the original attraction), who recalled, "Walt came to me and said, 'Marc, I'd like to do an attraction on pirates. You know, maybe pirates of the Caribbean.' He had come up with the name for it by that casual remark like he often did.

"Originally, this was going to be a walk-through wax museum down under New Orleans Square, but after the success of the boats in 'it's a small world' at the New York World's Fair, Walt decided to expand it. He realized it would be so popular that it needed a larger capacity than a walk-through, and the boats would provide that,

so we had to rip out all the steel that had already been laid and re-design the entire thing with waterfalls so it can go under the berm and train track to a larger show building."

Carrying a development price tag equating to almost half of what the company spent to create all of Disneyland Park roughly a decade earlier, the envelope-pushing attraction became an unprecedented celebration of the golden age of piracy, featuring a cast of more than 100 Audio-Animatronics characters.

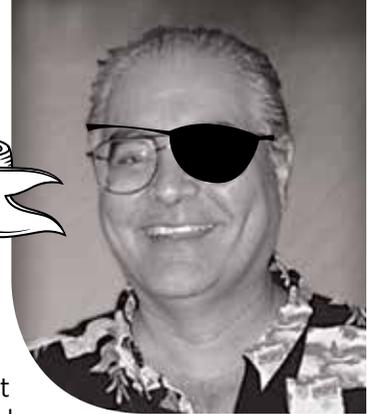
Musician George Bruns, whose previous credits included co-writing "The Ballad of Davy Crockett," composed the attraction's score, with lyrics and script created by the aforementioned Francis Xavier "X" Atencio, who later penned the narration script and song lyrics for The Haunted Mansion.

In keeping with Walt's vision, the attraction put a light-hearted spin on nefarious behavior, using Marc Davis' now-legendary sight gags to take the edge off characters who proudly admit that they "kidnap and ravage and don't give a hoot."

While Walt unfortunately didn't live to see the project through to completion, he did enjoy a memorable ride through one of the attraction's most famous sequences, sitting in a chair mounted to a dolly as Imagineers pushed him through a full-size mockup of the auction scene in a WED (now Walt Disney Imagineering) warehouse.

Walt likened the experience to a cocktail party, noting that, with so much going on, guests would want to return again and again. We now know just how right he was.

The eventual grand opening was a swashbuckling spectacle, with a crew of rowdy pirates (led by Golden Horseshoe Revue star and now Disney Legend Wally Boag) boarding the Park's Sailing Ship Columbia to kidnap its



Walt Disney eyes an Audio-Animatronic pirate in 1965.

passengers (invited members of the press) and lead them to New Orleans Square, where the scoundrels appeared to smash open the door to the attraction.

As we celebrate this landmark attraction's golden anniversary and enduring legacy, here are a few of the many trivial treasures I've collected during my years chronicling – and enjoying – Pirates of the Caribbean:

Rouge for rogues: In the attraction's early days, costumers regularly applied theatrical makeup to the Audio-Animatronics pirates, adding powder to give their faces a realistic finish.

In case of fire, break illusion: The convincing illusion of fire in the attraction prompted the Anaheim Fire Department to mandate the installation of an emergency shut-off switch to allow firefighters to more easily spot real fire in the event of an actual emergency.

They sound grrrrreat! Several of the attraction's pirates benefit from the voice talent of Disney Legend Thurl Ravenscroft, whose mark on pop culture includes providing the original voice of "Tony the Tiger" for Kellogg's Frosted Flakes cereal. Ravenscroft can be heard in a variety of Disney animation roles, as well as in such classic Disney Parks attractions as the Enchanted Tiki Room, the Haunted Mansion and the Country Bear Jamboree. His role as a howling dog in Pirates of the Caribbean expanded a doggone good résumé that also includes the performance of canine sounds for the animated feature *Lady and the Tramp*.

Everybody Frees: The attraction's dapper Auctioneer is among the pirates voiced by Disney Legend Paul Frees, who also voiced Professor Ludwig von Drake in animation and the Ghost Host in the Haunted Mansion attraction. While the Auctioneer is said to be a caricature of a particular Imagineer, details remain a mystery.

Is that you, Grandma? If listening to a distressed wife yelling at her wishing-well-dunked husband in the attraction to not be "cheeken" makes you want to call your grandma, it could be because June Foray, who provided the character's voice, also voiced two animated Disney grandmothers: Grandmother Fa in *Mulan* (a film that unbelievably celebrates its 20th anniversary

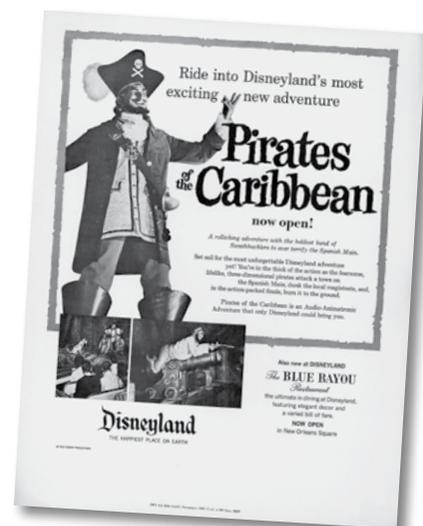


Walt Disney shares Pirates of the Caribbean concept art with Disney Legend Julie Reihm, the first Disneyland Ambassador, during a 1965 television special celebrating the 10th anniversary of Disneyland Park.

next year) and Grammi Gummi in TV's "The Adventures of the Gummi Bears" (part of "The Disney Afternoon").

Honorable mentions: In 1997, the original Pirates of the Caribbean attraction became the first recipient of the Classic Attraction award from the Themed Entertainment Association (THEA), an honor accepted by Disney Legend Marty Sklar. Marty called the attraction the quintessential Disney show, saying, "It broke the mold. It created a genre that was so new, that everything else that follows has to be measured against it. The one constant at Disneyland is change, and the attraction has had some changes over the years, but it kept the spirit and values that Walt envisioned." THEA honored another Pirates of the Caribbean attraction in 2016, presenting an Outstanding Attraction award to the headline-grabbing Pirates of the Caribbean: Battle for the Sunken Treasure attraction at Shanghai Disneyland Park.

So whether you prefer your pirates pillaging Parks or shining on screen, apprehending in Anaheim or shanghaiing in Shanghai (or all of the above), I think it's safe to say that, after 50 years of burning up the city, it's still a *pirate's life for we*.

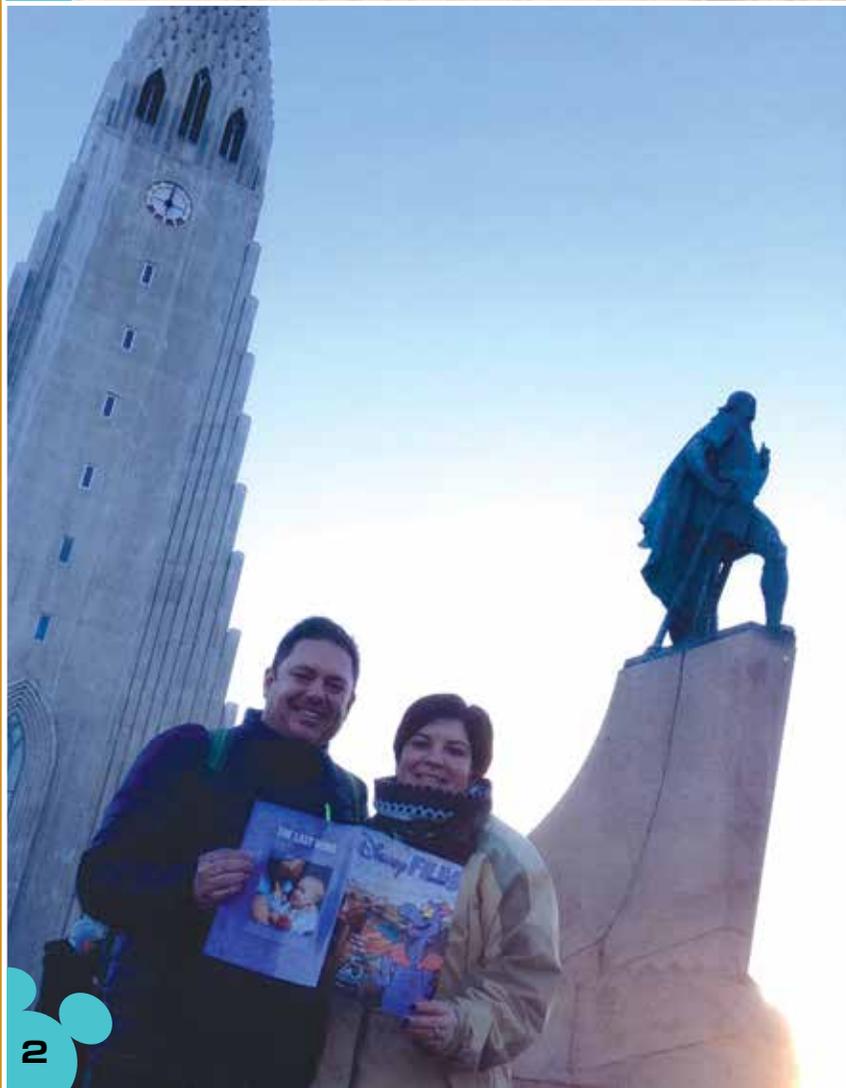
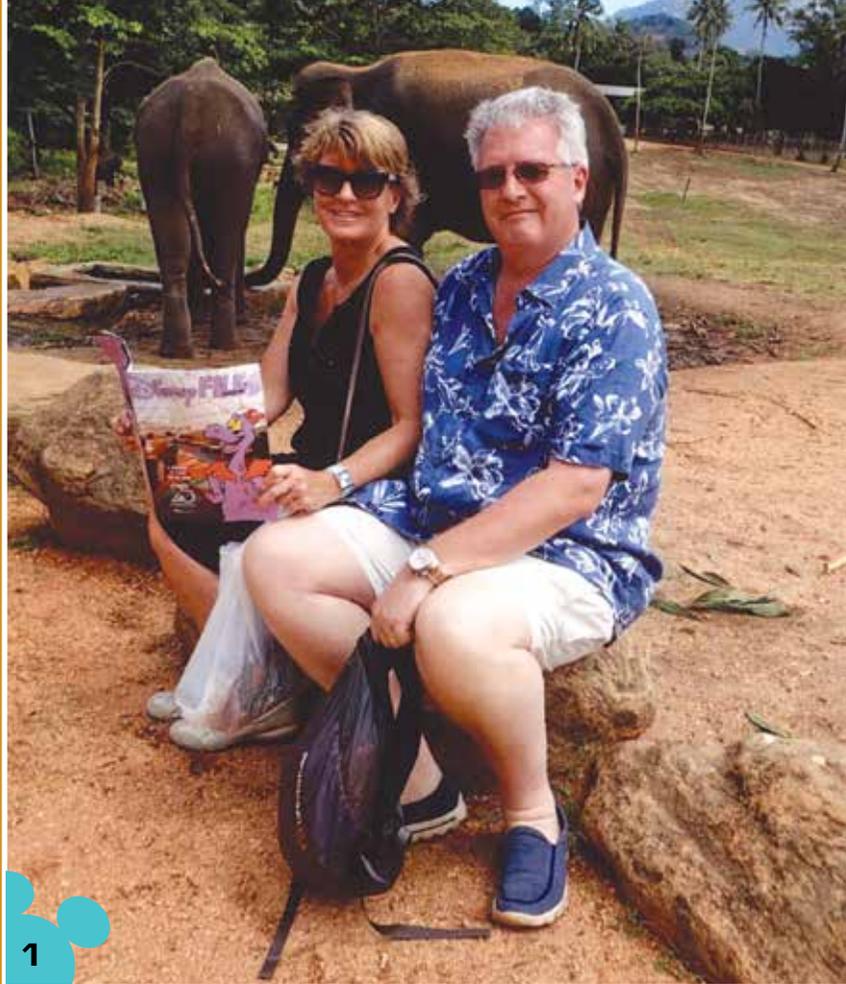


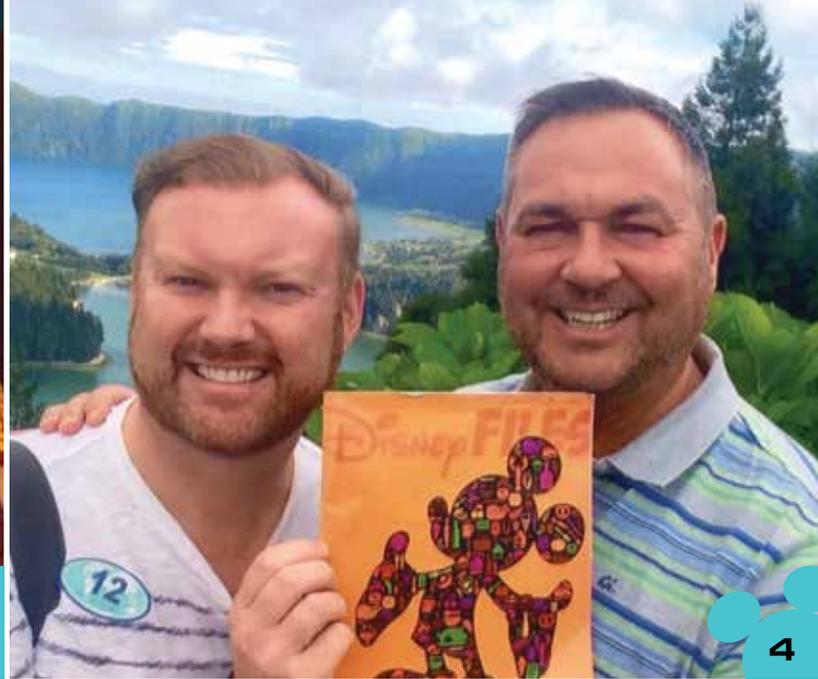


1. Mark and Joanne of the United Kingdom, Members since 1997, stay connected while visiting an elephant sanctuary in Sri Lanka.
2. Aaron and Christie of Pennsylvania, Members since 2004, visit Iceland's tallest church.
3. Young Pennsylvanian Koda, whose family has been Members since 2004, quietly judges as baby brother Jace reacts poorly to the news that he's not a real space ranger.
4. Drew and Paul of England, Members since 2005, do some reading in Portugal's Azores during a Disney Magic voyage.
5. Young Pennsylvanian Ben, whose family has been Members since 2009, vacations to the beat of his own drum at Disney's Animal Kingdom Theme Park.
6. New Jersey native Danica, whose family has been Members since 2012, shows Belle that a princess is still a princess in comfortable shoes.
7. Cecilia of Massachusetts, whose family has been Members since 1993, sinks her teeth (or gums) into her first Walt Disney World vacation.
8. New Jersey parents Patricia and John, Members since 2008, read with their kids, Sydney and Ryan, near one of the many Buddhist pagodas in Myanmar (Burma).

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. Remember to 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.

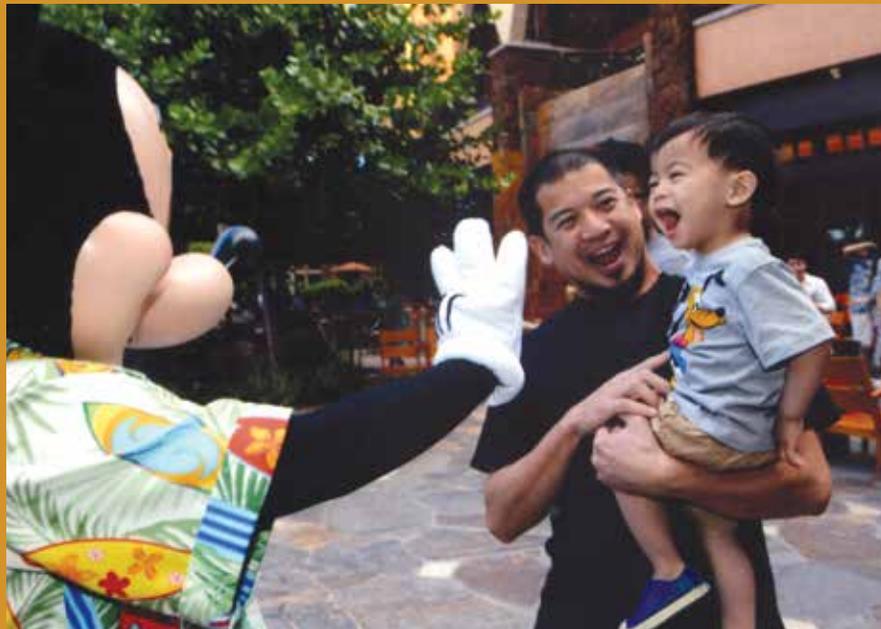
Better your chances of seeing your family in the magazine by capturing compelling, candid moments, which almost always beat posed photos. We do, however, enjoy when you pose with the magazine, particularly when you do so in exotic locations beyond the Disney Parks.





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.



Having long believed that the best moments kids spend with characters come before they “say cheese,” we instantly fell in love with this candidly captured image of Mickey’s first meeting with young Tyler of California, whose parents have been Members since 2008, at Aulani, a Disney Resort & Spa, Ko Olina, Hawai’i. For freely expressing the joy we’re too embarrassed to reveal whenever the Mouse stops by our office, all of us at *Disney Files Magazine* are happy to give Tyler and his equally delighted Dad, Francis, this edition’s last word.