

# DZ News

[www.disneyzone.net](http://www.disneyzone.net) • Volume 5, Issue 5 • May 2004

## Planning Nut

Typical planning freaks may understand the need to pre-plan the entire trip, but others just don't get it. My husband probably wanted to cancel the trip after the fourth or fifth time I asked him "Do you think we should stay in Magic Kingdom the whole day, or go back to the hotel and swim for a while on day 3?" I know all my planning was very aggravating to him, but I was having a ball. In fact I think it was almost as fun as our trip itself. The anticipation was incredible.

I got the kids into the act, too. They helped me choose which parks for which day, where we'd eat, and even helped with choosing our resort. My kids had been there once before, 3 years ago, so they do sort of know what to expect but I don't think they really remember much about that trip.

We had books and books, printed out website pages, charts, calendars, maps, all over our dining room. We started the whole preplanning process about 7 or 8 months

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before our trip. I was very upset at xmastime when I had to move all our planning stuff off the dining room table to make room for our xmas dinner. I piled it all very neatly into a tupperware box for easy return to the table.

I must say that the time spent with the kids doing the planning was a lot of fun. We each had input into what we'd do each day. My husband wanted nothing to do with us, so he just had to live with what we chose. I did allow each kid to have one day that they completely planned, from the moment we got up until bedtime. I think they really enjoyed all the power that gave them. They each took this very seriously and chose things that they thought the whole family would enjoy. I remember that my daughter planned so much into 'her' day that she had to go back and redo it. She learned a lot about time management doing the planning.

We chose an early entry park to start most days, grabbing

quick snacks to eat on the way to buses or while walking up to the parks, for breakfasts. Then we would see the parks, and have a nice big lunch. We made priority reservations for lunches and these became our big meal of the day. We had light dinners later, usually at counter service spots. We are not huge eaters so this planned worked well for us. We snacked a bit, and were all happy.

We did use RustyScrapper's planning info that you can find on the website. The books we liked were: The Unofficial Guide, WDW for Kids, Passporter and Birnbaums Guide. Between these books we got a pretty good idea of what we needed to do. We used mousesavers.com for discount info, too.

All in all we were very prepared and our vacation went very smoothly because of it! Even my skeptical husband agreed that having everything decided ahead of time saved us lots of wasted hours and frustration.

Plan, plan, plan and then enjoy the fruits of your labor! Make sure you save a few minutes for sleep each day, however.

-by the Cruz family

### Please note:

Disneyzone (DZ) is not affiliated with Disney in any way. We are a group of Disney enthusiasts who want to help you in making your next Disney World vacation the best ever!

## Pop Century was Great

First of all let me tell you that I have been looking forward to staying at the new Pop Century Resort for a very long time.

We had planned on staying there on our last trip about a year ago, but it wasn't open yet. So when we planned this trip (April 11-18) we made sure we got to stay there.

The hotel is very nice. I like the theming a lot. We upgraded to a Preferred room and I am glad

we did. We were very close to everything. We were put in the 50s building. We didn't have a preference so this was fine. Everything was very colorful, clean, and new. We could see the pool, which was an added bonus. We let our son go out and swim alone on a couple occasions. He is 12, so we felt comfortable, as we could easily watch him.

Note: some of the buildings were pretty far from the main

areas, so the Preferred may be the way to go if you don't want to do a lot of walking at the resort.

The rooms themselves were very nice, a tad small, but I think the same size as the All Stars rooms. Laid out similar, too. We found the beds to be comfortable, and loved the location. Hot water was readily available. I had heard comments from people that they had a hard time with that, but we didn't.

The food court had some pretty decent food. Not too expensive, and we always had good service.

The buses came often and we never had to wait more than 10 minutes or so for one to come. We only made one request for anything extra during our stay, we wanted more pillows. Do you know that they were up to our room in less than 5 minutes with them!

Stay at Pop Century next time, you'll like it! If you can afford it, get the Preferred rooms. They are the same as the other rooms but in better locations.

You can get a refrigerator in your room, too. We didn't get one, but our neighbor did and loved having access to cold water.

Amy, Scott & Kyle  
From Virginia

## Restaurant Reviews

Le Cellier in Epcot is my new favorite sit down restaurant. I had never eaten there on 7 previous trips. Not sure why not, I guess its because I had never really heard anything great about it. Since it wasn't crowded usually, I just figured it wasn't very good.

Our new cast member friend (works at Test Track) suggested we try it. We figured we had nothing to lose, we'd go see if we could get a table. We waited about 15 minutes to be seated, which wasn't bad for a walk up right at 7pm!

Inside the restaurant its almost crowded feeling, with tables very close to each other. There are no windows so its very closed in feeling. But we actually felt very comfortable once we sat down.

Our server was really from Canada, had an accent, and was a little hard to understand. He was great, however! We had not had such good of service in years! He was constantly checking on us, refilling drinks, and offered advice about what was good on the menu.

From his recommendation I ordered a filet mignon steak and it was fabulous! I really enjoyed it. My husband had a different steak but don't remember what it was. He loved it, too. We didn't order any of the famous cheese soup because we are not soup people, but others were raving over it!

So you never know—give places a try and you may just find a new favorite!

## More Good News. . .

I have some good news to share in the newsletter. My four year old daughter was talking to Belle during our trip in December saying how much she wanted a baby brother. Belle kept looking at us and smiling. I was glad to hear her responses, just how that she thought Hannah would be a good sister, and things like that. We didn't think much of it after that, but at dinner later that night Hannah told us that Belle promised she could have a baby brother in March (her birthday is in March). Of course

we knew she didn't say that, but Hannah really believed it. We told her that some day we would try to give her a baby, but we couldn't promise anything about it. Guess what? In March I found out that I am pregnant! Of course we have no idea yet if it's a boy or girl, but it is very exciting! Hannah knew all along, or maybe Belle did.

Will you make me the happiest man alive, in the happiest place on earth? That's why my soon to be husband said to me in front of the Castle at Magic Kingdom.

I was blown away, I had no idea he felt that way. It was such a wonderful spot to have such a memorable thing happen. My family goes to WDW at least once a year, and this year my fiance came along. I am 20 years old, and I was so happy that I sat on the ground and cried! My parents knew about it and were watching. They videotaped the whole thing.



It was such wonderful news that I wanted to share it with everyone in the newsletter! We are getting married in October 2004. Not at Disney, but we will go there first chance we get!

I found a bakery that will put mickeys on the cake, and I told my mom to put mickey confetti in the invitations.

I will get my 'Disney' in my wedding, even if the wedding is in Tennessee!

Samantha & Brett

## Mini Golf WDW Style

Do you love miniature golf? I do. I played at each of the Disney mini golf courses. Here is what I thought of them.

Fantasia Gardens, across from the Dolphin hotel, is my favorite. Its really fun, and only a little challenging. They have characters from Disneys Fantasia. It has lots of water fountains, fun statues and music.

Fantasia fairways is right next to Fantasia gardens. It is more chal-

lenging, but still fun. Its more like real golf with water and sand traps. I think serious golfers would enjoy this.

Winter Summerland has two courses, one is Winter and the other is summer. Both have a Christmas theme, but one is wintery and the other is more tropical. I liked the wintery one better, but both are fun. Its located next to Blizzard Beach.

By Travis, age 14

## Articles Needed!

Would you like to share your Disney experiences with others? Do you have some great tips that others might benefit from? Would you like to tell everyone about your favorite WDW restaurant? Have you stayed at one of the Disney resorts

lately and want to share details?

**DZ News is as great as it is because so many of you contribute articles! Thanks!**

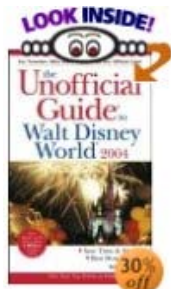
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Have you visited the **DZ Message Boards** lately? It's a great spot to meet other Disney World enthusiasts! There are many topics to discuss, lots of very nice people to meet & a wealth of information for those planning Disney World vacations! Visit today! **CLICK HERE** to go to the boards!

The **NEW LOOK**. The newsletter has changed a little, this layout should make it easier to read. Also, all the links to email & websites now work. Which means you can click on them and they will actually take you to a website, or bring up your email client. Give it a try and visit some of the links within the newsletter!

DZ has a great **contest** that just ended. And another one just started! Contests on DZ are ALWAYS FREE. You can win a great prize, just for participating!

Go enter the new contest, by visiting the contest page!

**CLICK HERE** to go to the DZ Contest Page - play and you could win a cool prize!

**\*If you would like to donate a prize, please contact us! prizes@disneyzone.net - You get some advertising on the site in exchange for your donation!**

## DZ Kids

I made a scrambled word puzzle for everyone.

OYEERE  
AMBBI  
PYURGM  
ZUZB  
LAAN  
MONE  
ZRATNA

WGOMLI  
BTKNELIRLE  
ODMUB  
KFIL  
FOGOY  
EMIKYC

Good luck guessing these.

By Andrew, age 6

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The next page of the newsletter offers ads from various companies. DZ offers very reasonable rates for advertisers. Reach thousands of Disney World fans via the DZ News!

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## Happy Birthday...



Lindsey-15;  
Thomas-4;  
Lois, Tim-15;  
Conner,-12;  
Rose, Dane,

Malia-12; Kellie, Joe,  
Lynn, Tanner, Robin -7,  
Becky - 18, Brianna - 6,  
Cole - 10, Erica - 6,  
Samantha - 11, Paul,  
Aiden-2; Cameron-2;  
Dennis, Emily, Roger,  
Christopher - 8, Brooke,  
Tyler - 15, Scott, Megan,  
Justin - 14, Jeremy - 6,  
Sloan, Travis, Cameron,  
AJ, Alexander -1

Please send an email to birthdays@disneyzone.net if you want a birthday added to the list!

Ages are optional!

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