

Trip report for our 10/05 week long trip to Disneyland. Our first trip to the resort during Halloweentime.

We had a great time. Actually, one of the best times. We got there on Sunday afternoon, checked into the Paradise Pier Hotel and headed to Company "D". It was amazing. They had current stock that you could buy at Disneyland, but at 50-75% off. I got beautiful knit shirt that had a price marked on it of \$44 and I got it for \$22. We all bought t-shirts, Halloween decorations, and Disneyland books. Lindsay bought some cast member only stuff: a couple of t-shirts (One said I make the Magic Happen, Cast member), a license plate cover and some lanyards. The next day, Monday, we decided to celebrate Daniel's birthday. I had made reservations for the Blue Bayou and did not tell the kids. So I knew we had to be in New Orleans Square by 11:15. When we entered the park we went to Town Hall and got Daniel a birthday button. It was great, everyone wished him a happy birthday all day. We went on a couple of rides, then went to Pirates. We rode the ride at about 11am and got off at about 11:15. We noticed the exit line was backed up. It slowly moved along then we noticed why it was slowing down. In the hall right before you got completely out of the exit way, there were two cast members handing out something. When we got to them, they said congratulations you just won a Magic FastPass. You know they are still having the year of a million dreams, so we finally won something, yeah! So, with the Magic Fastpass, we receive a fastpass for every ride that used fastpass in both parks. And they could be used at anytime during the day. It was pretty cool. We then went to the Blue Bayou for Daniel's birthday lunch. The kids were very surprised and very excited. We got to sit right on the water. Lindsay had the Monte Cristo and the rest of us had Blackened Salmon. It was great. They brought out a chocolate mouse for Daniel's birthday with a candle in it. We spent the rest of the day going on fastpass rides, then back to the hotel.

On Tuesday, we got in an hour early because we stayed at a Disney resort Hotel, it was called magic mornings. I think they had that before, but stopped it for a while. We went a few rides and then the kids decided they wanted to go on something and Kathy and I wanted to do something else, so we split up. At about 11:00 Kathy and I were walking from Tomorrowland Terrace along the short walkway that ended at the exit to the Buzz Lightyear ride. We noticed there were two cast member standing ahead of us on the right side of the path. As we got closer to them, they said congratulations, you just won a Special Park Dream Time Event. We said great, thanks. they explained we should meet at the Thunder Mountain Ranch after the park closed. We said we had our kids with us and that we needed 2 more. She said just bring them with you it should be OK. Kathy and I walked around the corner and decided we did not want to chance it, so we put the lanyards that allowed us to get in, into our pockets and walked by them again. They gave us two more. So, we had 4. We finished the day and went to the Thunder Mountain Ranch at 8:00 and there was a line forming. As we were standing there a cast member came by and explained to us what we won. He said they were going to take us into the festival area and we would get a show for 30 minutes. During those 30 minutes they would be emptying the park of the rest of the guests. Then the people that won would get to go back into the park by ourselves with all of the rides open. We had one hour with the park all to ourselves. He said there was about 2000 people that won, but it did not look like that many people came to the festival area. Anyway, there was a guy in there and he entertained us. We danced and sang with him. Then Mickey and Minnie came out and congratulated us, then sent us out into the park. The four of us went right to Space Mountain and walked right on. Then we slip up. Kathy and I wanted to see Nemo Subs and thought this would be a great opportunity. The kids wanted to see how many things they could go on, so we split. They went over to Thunder Mountain and rode it 5 times in a row, without getting off. They went on a couple more rides after that. Kathy and I pretty much just saw Nemo. So, we got out of the park about 2 hours after it closed.

Wednesday we went over to DCA and pretty much just had a casual day over there. It was nice. I got to ride soaring 3 times. We rode on all three levels. I love that ride. When the park closed we went over to Disneyland to finish out the day. Thursday was an early entry day as well, but we opted to just take our time getting to the park. We had to check out in the morning because our original plans had us going from Sunday through Wednesday at the park, but Miley Cyrus'

birthday party on Sunday screwed that up. So, we changed our plan and did Monday through Thursday at the parks. Unfortunately, we could not get an extra night at the Paradise Pier, so we stayed across the street at the Tropicana Thursday night. So, we check out and left our bags with the porter and went to the park about 10. We did the normal rides and by about 12 it started getting really busy. We talked to some of the cast members and they said that they did not know what was going on and that they thought it would be very slow on Thursday. Unfortunately, it got very crowded. We found out after we got home that it was a holiday for the California schools (some Jewish holiday) So, that pretty much explained it. So Thursday we just kind of walked around and took in the decorations. Lindsay took a bunch of pictures. (See the link below to check them out) About three o'clock we sat down to eat and discussed what we should do. I needed to go get the bags and check into the new hotel. We had seen some folks the nights before on the Happy Haunts Tour and we thought it might be fun to go on, since we really could not get on any rides without a fastpass. It was very late in the day, so we figured it was sold out, but we would give it a try. Lindsay and I went to guest relations and asked them about the tour. They said they had 4 openings for the 5:30 tour. We they asked if there was any discounts for cast members and they said yes as a matter of fact cast members got a 35% discount. So, we got tickets for the tour. we hooked back up with Kathy and Daniel and Kathy and I went to check into the new hotel and Daniel and Lindsay went on rides. We met at 5:15 at eh guest relations office at DCA.

The tour started in the DCA Guest Relations office. We watched a little of the Disney Ichabod Crane cartoon as we waited for our guide. She came in dressed as a Ghost Hunter complete with EMF and EVP detectors. She was very energetic and humorous. She handed out audio receivers and headphone for us to use to be able to hear her talk. There was also haunted sounds and music playing as we walked. The sound did not begin until we exited the Tower of Terror. She then directed us over to the Tower of Terror. She shared the story of the twilight zone series. She showed us many of the props from the TV show that are in the introduction movie room in the cases on the walls. It was very interesting. The cast member stayed in character and acted as if she was very scared. She was shaking pretty much the whole time. We went to the front of the queue to enter the ride pre-show. We had a very short wait after that, and then rode the ride. When the doors opened at the end of the ride, there was another cast member waiting for us. She was dressed in period clothes like the Haunted Mansion cast members. She escorted us out to the street in front of the Hyperion. She gave us lanyards that had green lights in them. It ad a key connected to the end of it. The key has writing on both sides. The one side says Ghost relations. The other side says Disney Happy Haunts Tour. She then took us in front of the Monsters Inc ride and had us scream to help provide them some extra power. As we walked be the ride, one of the cast members was on a walkie talkie and said he was talking to Scully and that he wanted to thank us for adding some extra power. It was a neat addition to the tour. We then proceeded to Disneyland. We stopped before the entrance and she shared the decorations with stories. Once in the gate we looked at the Mickey in lights in from of Disneyland Train Station. She explained that last year there was a Mickey face made of 300 small pumpkins and she was disappointed that they were not there this year. We stopped again to look at the large Mickey Pumpkin where the Disneyland Christmas tree goes. She talked about it and the pumpkins that are decorating Main Street. We then proceeded to Fantasyland. We went to Snow Whites Scary ride. We rode the ride and the Ghost hunter was waiting for us at the end of the ride. She walked us over to Thunder Mountain Ranch where we sat at one of the picnic tables. She shared the story of Icabod Crane. As we were leaving the other cast member came up behind her with a lit pumpkin and scared the Ghost Hunter cast

member away. We were then taken over to Thunder Mountain and we were told stories of the Tommy knockers that haunt the train. We then went into the exit of the ride and went right onto the ride. We met the Ghost Hunter at the end of the ride. She began sharing stories with us again. The Ghost Hunter said that there were some curses at Disneyland and as long as no one looked at the treasure in the Pirates of the Caribbean ride we would be OK. Of course we all looked at the treasure in the Pirates of the Caribbean, so she said we had to go to New Orleans Square to have the Voodoo princess take the curse off. So we walked over to where the Voodoo Princess stays. We then went to the New Orleans Square courtyard and she stood at the foot of the Stairs going up to the second floor. As she was talking to us the Ghost Hunter came down the stairs and scared her away. The Ghost Hunter said she had to get back to the Haunted Mansion because she was one of the Ghosts that live there. And if she did not get back before the park closed, she would not be allowed to return. So, we then went to the Haunted Mansion. We were escorted to the line and went right in. We boarded the Doom Buggies and started up the hill to where the doors are. As we got up the hill, the Ghost cast member was standing on the side in a white dress while holding a parasol and waving as we went by. There was a black light on her, so the effect was very cool. We completed the ride and met the Ghost Hunter at the exit. She let us keep the lanyards and key. She also gave us each a cinnamon candy apple. That ended the tour. It lasted a little over 3 hours. We spent the rest of the night at Disneyland. They canceled the fireworks because of the wind, so that was really the only downer we had all trip. We finally left the park at about midnight. We got up at about 10 on Friday and headed home.

Sorry this was kind of long. Hope all is well with you.

John

Pictures link

<http://www.disfriends.com/photo/photo/listForContributor?screenName=0dbd6n4bosg3b>