

Winter 2022



WALTHAM

The Official FC Newsletter

ENDWALKER IS HERE!

FLARE INTERVIEW
JAMES ROCK'IT

AMPLIFIER INTERVIEW
RALIA LUNAFELL

Contents

- 1 Cover
- 2 Table of Contents
- 3-5 Flare Interview
- 6-12 Screenshots Corner
- 13-17 Black Waltz Art Gallery
- 18-19 Critters of Light
- 20-25 The Open House
- 26-27 Amplifier Interview
- 28-35 Splash: Fashion
- 36-44 Ultimate Waltz Cookbook (NEW!)
- 45-49 Eorzean Chronicles
- 50 What's New in Waltz



Interview with . . .

James Rock'it



How did you get into playing FFXIV?

I've always been a huge Final Fantasy fan. I've played as many as I can. I had always been skeptical about playing FFXIV because it was online and I heard about all the negative reviews of it before A Realm Reborn, but then I saw it on sale in the PlayStation Store and thought I would at least give it a try. That was back during patch 2.1. It didn't take even one hour and I was hooked. The gameplay was beautiful and smooth, the scenery was so amazing, and the story was captivating. I've been stuck in Eorzea ever since.

What's your favorite Final Fantasy game besides XIV of course?

Oh wow, it's really hard to choose. I would have to say VIII. Even though it strayed from the usual fantasy vibe and went more modern, the battle system with the junctioning and summons was awesome. (And I'm a sucker for a good love story, so that gave it a huge win.) I was a teenager when it came out so I had all these teenage hormones going on that really made me relate to the characters.

What keeps bringing you back to FFXIV?

Obviously it's Waltz. The friends I have made here and the community we have created is something I've treasured for a long time. I take it very seriously and talk about it all of the time with my IRL friends. Besides that, I really like how vast the game is and how it gives so many options on things to do when I log in. If I wanna be brave and go smash some face for a while, I can do that. If I wanna be lazy and just sit around and craft to make gil, I can do that. And if I wanna be social with my Waltz Fam, well I can do that too. The possibilities seem endless.

Speaking of crafting (and crafting, and more crafting). Why do you love this part of the game so much?

I love playing the marketboard. That's my favorite thing about the game. The thrill of crafting and selling, buying low and selling high, watching the trends to see what is hot...it really is its own game on its own and it's community driven. It also gives me the opportunity to help people get the things they want. I've never been the best DoW/M so battles and such I can't help that much with, but if I can help you get gear or materials or what have you, then I'm your guy, and that makes me feel special.

So then for those that want to get into crafting, what important tips would you like to give?

The same tips I would give someone who wants to learn how to play the guitar... It takes practice. It's something you have to keep up on and try what works best for you. You can watch all the videos you want and get tips from all the pros, but until you sit down and pick up your tools to try it out, you won't ever truly understand it.

Well, since you mentioned playing the guitar. We heard that you were in a band. Can you tell us about that?

Hahahaha! Oh boy, the glory days. Well, I've been playing the guitar since I was eight. I didn't really start getting good at it till about age fifteen when I got grounded for an entire summer and had nothing else to do but "git gud." I started my band at eighteen. We blew up pretty quick in my hometown of St. Louis. At the time I was also going to college to get my degree in Music Theory and Composition.

After a few years we put out three albums and started touring. We played with some pretty popular bands at the time like the Misfits, Arch Enemy, In Flames, Lamb of God, and Slayer. Things were getting pretty serious after nine years, but that's when things also started falling apart. Money became an issue and most of the band members had families they wanted to stay home with. Eventually we split and due to that I haven't played since. I'm actually not even upset I don't play anymore. I had an amazing run and gave it everything I had. No regrets, just amazing memories. Maybe someday I'll finish the solo album I've been working on for the last five years and release it.

Well, if you do finish that solo album you be sure to let us know so we can pick up a copy.

Waltz will know second... right after I show my mother!

Now, you mentioned some of the bands you played with, but are there any bands that you'd like to or wish you got to see live, and if so, is it because they were musical 'role models,' or another reason?

My bucket list is so very vast. Shoutout to my boy Meatloaf who just passed. I always wanted to see him live. Wish I could have seen Michael Jackson, too. I've been to so many concerts over the years, there aren't too many bands I haven't seen that I want to see. Still though, surprisingly to many, my favorite live band is REO Speedwagon. I've seen them at least twenty times. They always deliver.

Let's dip back into the world of FFXIV. How did you find Waltz? Or did Waltz find you?

More than three years ago, I was in an FC that was falling apart. We had some good friends but not everyone was around all the time. I wasn't the official leader, but everyone looked to me for leadership. That created some drama between myself and the FC leader. I tried to keep things active but there was a bit of a toxic atmosphere.

Then one day Istari posted something about the Eorzean Footrace in a Facebook group I was in. I thought, "Well this looks like super fun," so I contacted Istari and he let me join in. I had such an amazing time doing that event. Seeing the friendship and openness everyone had and how much they all seemed to enjoy the game and each other's company, it made me think hard about my current situation with my FC.

After a lot of internal deliberation, I decided to leave the FC and join Waltz. I sent a very long DM to Istari before I joined, exclaiming that I was a die-hard FFXIV player and that I needed a community that I could contribute all of my love to. In his always humble nature, he told me that everyone was welcome and he would be happy to have me along. And well, I joined a few days later and the rest is history.

Waltz is so precious to me. It's the best thing I have in my life. The friends I have made have helped me through some tough times in my life. Having people like that around that really care is truly immeasurable.



I'm glad you were able to find an FC full of positive, upbeat people, and that you've made friends to help you along through those tough times. I'm sure others would say the same positive things about you.

It's all about paying it forward. I want for little. So putting a smile on someone's face is a huge reward in itself.

Now that we kind of have an idea of your history with Waltz, let's talk a bit about the game going back through the years. What is your favorite expansion?

I wish I was there for 1.0. I would have loved to see its progression over the years. But in some ways, I'm still stuck in ARR so I'll have to say that is my favorite expansion. I remember how different the game was back then, with cross-class jobs and crafting was so much harder, and barely anyone had more than 1 million gil. Those were the days, back when no one could even clear Titan Extreme. I still haven't been able to clear Odin without being unsynced. It may have seemed drawn out and tedious by today's standards, but back then it was so exciting and new that everyone fell in love with the game so easily.

But through it all, you've always been a Miqo'te, yes? Any other races you'd like to try?

I always make sure to switch to Roegadyn during Roeverber. That's a promise. But I do have a Lalafell alt named Junior Rock'it and a female Viera alt named Jane Rock'it. Actually, James isn't even my first character, he's technically an alt. My first character was an Elezen and is forever stuck on Gilgamesh. But James, James will always be a catboy. He's too handsome not to be, and he's a rockstar too, so we'll just stick with what works.

He is definitely that. One last question for you: What words do you live by, or are there any quotes or words of wisdom you want to leave for others?

That's simple... "Be excellent to each other."



SCREENSHOTS CORNER!



Kellin Silverwillow



O'zetta Laqi



Lady Beatrix

SCREENSHOTS CORNER!

Moonlight Mura



Brock Hampton

Diana Waters



SCREENSHOTS CORNER!



Admiral Ackerman

Helbhar Rhoteyhawyn



SCREENSHOTS CORNER!



Adori Amanthis

Bong Lord



SCREENSHOTS CORNER!



Bouncy Bunny

Dezz Riva



SCREENSHOTS CORNER!



Kai Linh

Laureall Morgan



THE BLACK WALTZ ART GALLERY

Take a moment to gaze upon art made by your fellow FC mates.



Adori



Gaulden

Xen (Yulia)



Admiral Ackerman





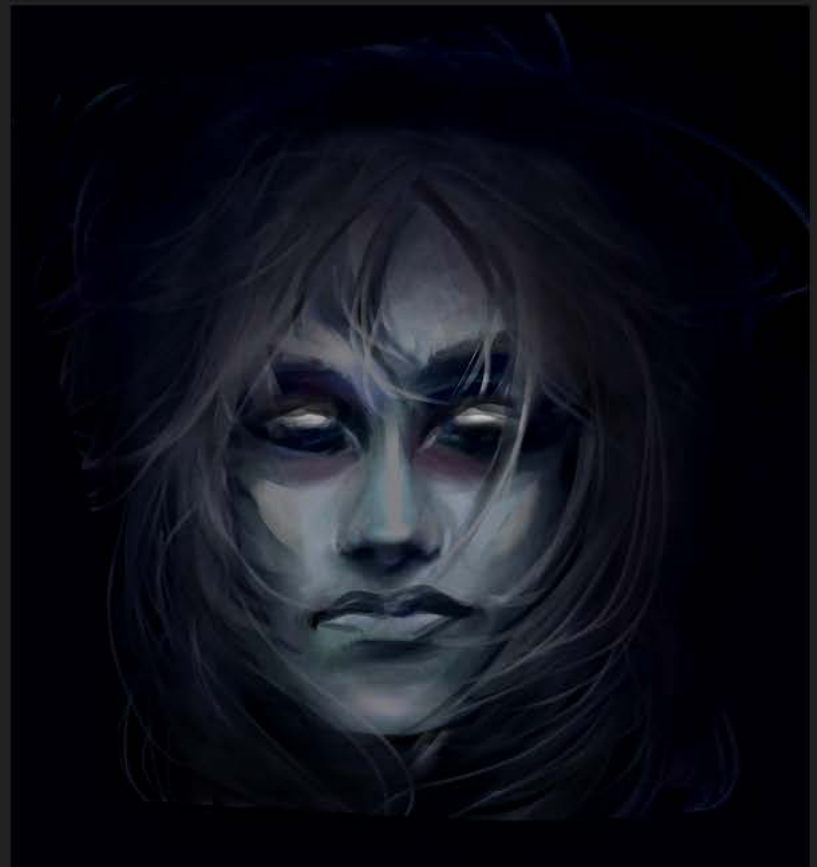
Beryl



Zara



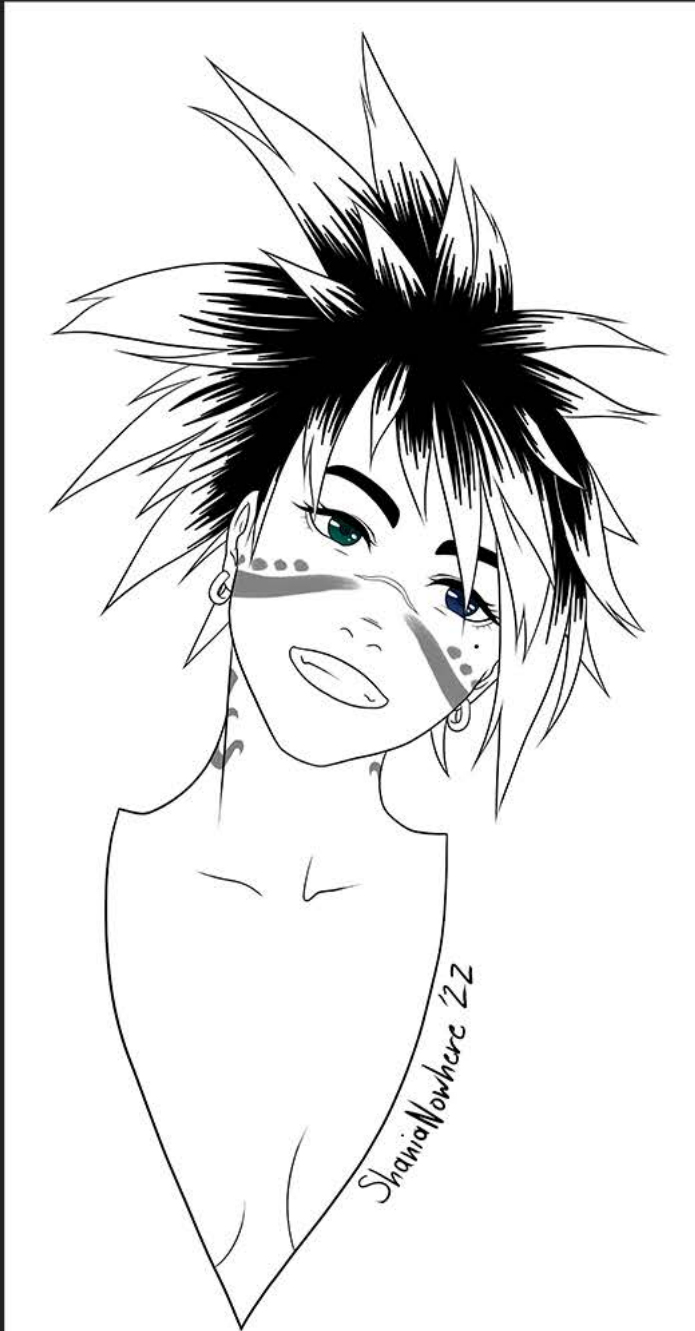
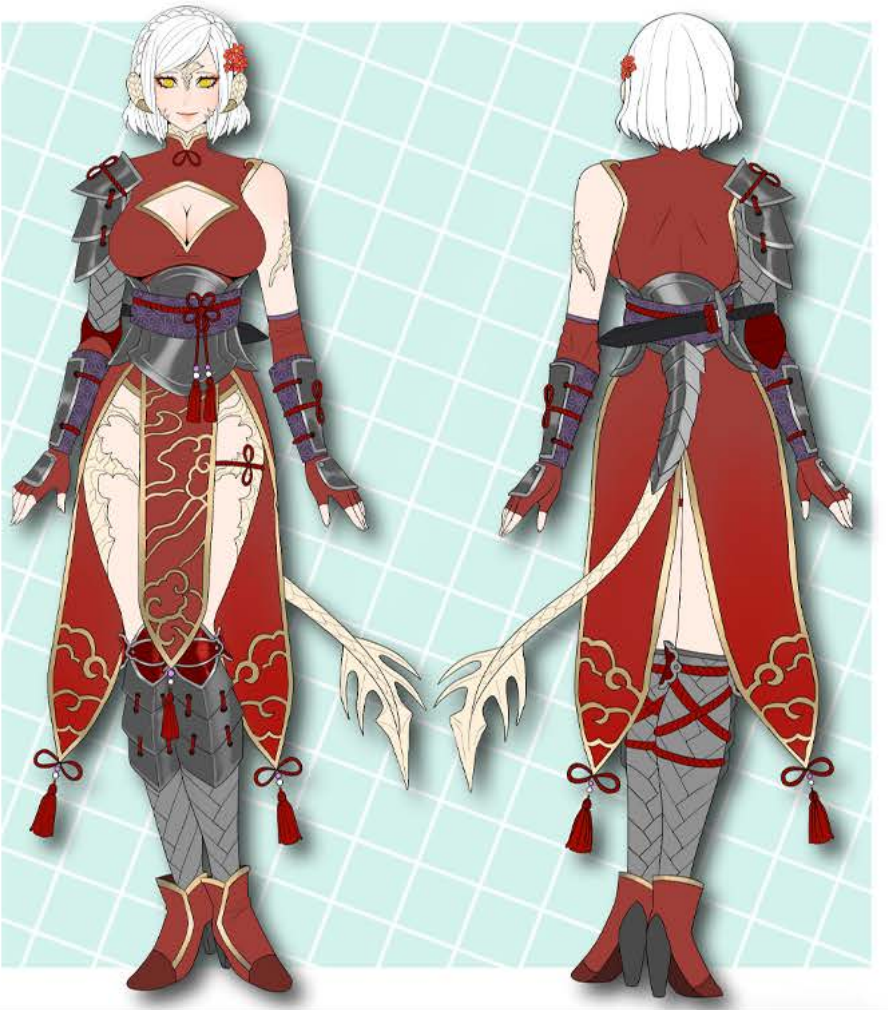
Kouya



Selania



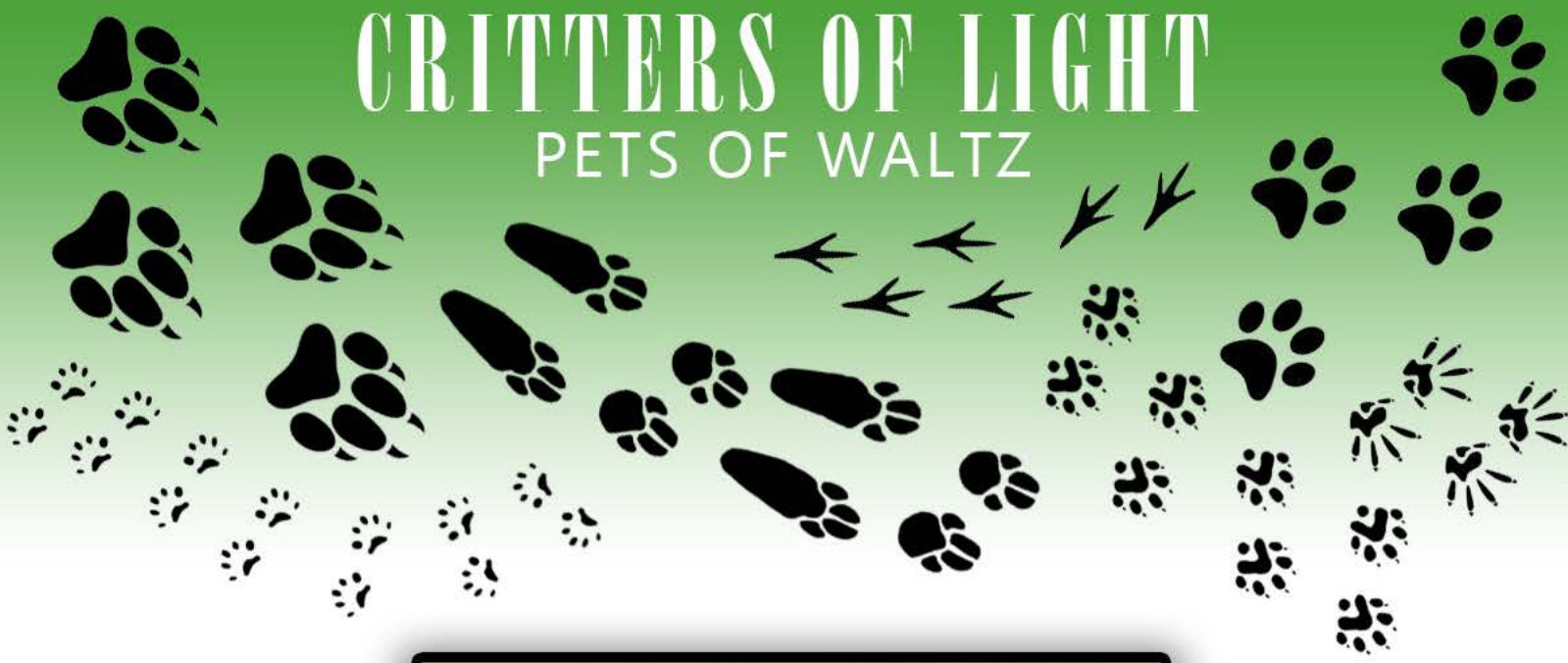
Diana



Mufinella

CRITTERS OF LIGHT

PETS OF WALTZ



Featuring: **JOKER**



Good evening, Joker! Thank you for taking some time for this interview.

Mrow.

What's your favorite toy to play with?

plastic straws. I love tossing them around and chewing on themmmmmm.

How do you feel about your mommy and daddy?

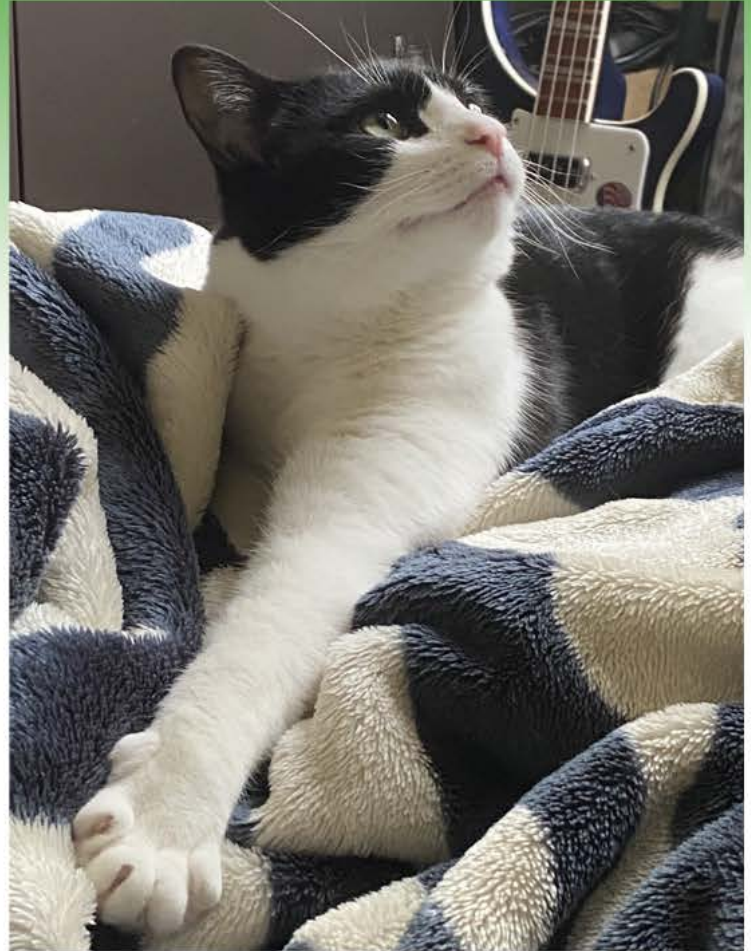
I love mummy cause she feeds me and daddy cause he's warm!!!

Are you a good boy?

I think I am a very good boye. My parents don't always think I am a good boye, but they are wrong.

What is your opinion of hit MMORPG Final Fantasy 14?

FFXIV is pretty neat! I'm just sad sometimes because mummy doesn't let me talk to her friends on the keyboard. Sometimes I have to distract her away from hit MMORPG. But I like to sit by and watch her play it from time to time.



Do you have any siblings? If so, how do you feel about them?

I have an older sister named Yoyo, she's cranky sometimes but she is a good pal. She just doesn't like when I get close to her sometimes and wants to be left alone. I also have a GF named Tiny Cat and we run and play a lot together, especially with our shared favorite toy, plastic straws.

Where is your favorite nap spot?

I have a guest bed all to myself so my parents just call the guest room "Joker's Room" now. It's very cozy and nobody bothers me there, plus my food is there!

What are your opinions on Funko Pops?

Funko boxes are very tasty!!

Any final words of wisdom you would like to share with the audience?

Thank you for coming and please feel free to give me food donations on your way out.



THE OPEN HOUSE

Tour around in these fabulous housing designs!



FC Room 36

Beka Snow

Kaymia Evenriver

FC Room 55



THE OPEN HOUSE



FC Room 1

Indigo Violet

Admiral Ackerman

FC Room 149



THE OPEN HOUSE



FC Room 15

Kellin Silverwillow

Vincent Valeriant



Shirogane, W 23, P 27

THE OPEN HOUSE



Shirogane, W 23, P 47

Noriko Takaya

Admiral Ackerman

Shirogane (Subdivision), W 12, Room 9



THE OPEN HOUSE



Mist, W 10, P 38

Indigo Violet

Vexwryn Cayce



Mist, W 18, Room 84

THE OPEN HOUSE



Mist, W 2, P 36

Mufinella Pemstein

Nydoa Lunastar



LB, W 20, P 44

Interview with . . .

Ralia Lunafell



How did you get into the game?

When I came to Japan, I came with a group of people, like two hundred or so, and there was a friend I made in that group. We agreed to hang out and he got me into the game because he would play it when we would hang out with each other. At first I wasn't so interested... until he showed me Nanamo. He thought I would really like her and he was right. It was also here that I knew I had to be a Lala. So cute!

What's your favorite part of the game? What keeps you playing it?

I'd say my favorite part of the game is playing and enjoying it with friends, but also crafting, gathering, and decorating. I had a time after my friend went back to the States where I was bound to no FC, and just tried doing my own thing. But doing MSQ by yourself is actually pretty lonely. I find you have no one to share your adventures with afterward. So I got into decorating, crafting/gathering, and gardening some. I actually rather enjoyed that.

What is your favorite battle class? Favorite non-battle class?

Oh, Bard, definitely. For crafters/gatherers, I can't pick just one haha. I'd have to say my faves are Weaver and Botanist. All of these classes reflect my interests in real life. In America, I was part of an Olympic archery team. I still practice in Japan when able. My bow was a recurve, and I loved every second of it.

Which expansion has been your favorite so far?

I'd say my favorite has been Heavensward. I got so swept up in the story and in the new area of Ishgard. The dragons were beautiful, and I really felt like I was really getting into the heart of this game.

Who is your favorite NPC(s)?

Oh, come on. It's gotta be Nanamo, of course! Oh wait, I can pick multiples? I really adore Ryne. And G'raha. Oh, and Raubahn. Can't forget about him! Alisae actually won my heart in Endwalker.

What's one thing you're looking forward to most in the coming patches?

I'm really excited to start the raids. I've been waiting for the EX versions of trials to release so I can do those and do some of the raids, which I'm told have an enhanced story. I'm really excited for these. One thing I love about this game is that there's so much to do. You're never bored.

Do you have a background to your character's name?

I wanted a name that was cute, but charming, and because my zodiac sign is Cancer and falls under the sign of the moon, I wanted it to have some inclusion in there. I have never Fantasia'd, and probably never will. I've had her as a Lala through all the expansions, and I'm quite proud of that.

What mount is your favorite and what minion is your favorite?

My favorite mount has to be the Witch's Broom! Also Fat Moogle mount is close second because of the King Moogle Mog theme song! My favorite minion has got to be Wind-Up Nanamo. She sits on my head (also in my character's backstory, she's actually Nanamo's cousin!).

Are there any other games you play outside of FFXIV?

I play a lot on my Nintendo Switch, but like most people, I have a tower of games I need to play/finish. Honorable mentions are Nier: Automata, Spyro the Dragon, and Life is Strange: True Colors. I really enjoy chill games like Animal Crossing and most recently, House Flipper. Both have interior decorating elements in them, which is something I really enjoy doing.

What hobbies do you have outside of gaming?

I like reading, studying languages (Japanese and Russian), using Skillshare, researching for my Master's Degree, anything that broadens my horizons. I like to stay busy.

Tell us a little bit of what you love to eat, even if it's a snack.

I really love to eat olives—black or green, doesn't matter. One of my comfort foods. I really like pickles too.

Tell us one awesome fact about yourself!

I live and work in Japan and can speak Japanese!

Are there shows/films or songs you would recommend?

I recently watched a show called After Life on Netflix. It's about a man who recently loses his wife, and instead of trying to be happy, he chooses to make everyone else miserable because he feels miserable. Over the series, he learns a lot of valuable lessons about life, and it's just a really feel-good show.

One of the most influential songs to me in recent years was "Show Yourself" from Frozen 2. I like to write in my spare time as well, and used to be in chorus when I was in school. The combination of Idina Menzel's wonderful voice, plus wonderfully written lyrics, plus Elsa's super-overdue character development never fails to give me goosebumps. Even if you're not a fan of Frozen, the song has a wonderful message of stepping out and being your true self, which I think a lot of us need reminders of now and then.

If you were able to, would you be down to meet people outside of this game?

I would, absolutely! I actually have met people IRL before, when a friend brought his friends from the States over to Japan for a visit! It was wonderful! I know Kellin and Kouya in real life too but we've never met up yet.

If you have a pet, what kind of pet is it?

I have a cat. He's an American shorthair. His name is Maru, because he likes to sleep in a ball, and in Japanese, "Maru" means circle, or round. I have had Maru for seven years. He was six months old when I got him in the states. I took him to Japan with me, and so far, he's lived in four different places with me! In the morning, he wakes me up at 7 A.M. by pawing at me.

The game is coming to an end, you have thirty minutes to an hour to do one last thing, what would it be?

Hopefully I'd have all my aether currents by then or this would be REALLY regrettable! I'd ride all over Eorzea, take in the beauty of the game, go to the dome in Gridania where my journey began, go to all my friends' houses, visit previous FC houses if I can remember where they are, and screenshot everything as I go. I would come to the FC house and take as many Gposes with as many people as I could! Finally I would come back to my own house, take pictures of everything, make sure I'd played all my favorite rolls, and close the final pages of this wonderful storybook I've been a part of.

And lastly, share with us a quote you live by.

"Don't forget to live, for tomorrow this moment is gone. Age is just a number, tomorrow is a new start. Make your life extraordinary."



SPLASH!

**A Hydri
Fashion
Journal**



**Winter
Into Spring?**



Cute Reaper

By Kai Linh



Head: Far Eastern Schoolgirl's Hair Ribbon

+Dye: Gloom Purple

Body: Ao Dai

+Dye: Gloom Purple

Legs: Yorha Type 51 Halfslops of Maiming

+Dye: Gloom Purple

Feet: Yorha Type 51 Boots of Maiming

+Dye: Gloom Purple

Hands: Eastern Lady Errant's Gloves

+Dye: Gloom Purple

In a world full of edgy bois and tryhards, there must rise...the Cute Reaper!

Optional Weapon: Padjali War Scythe

The Samurai

By Isaac Shepherd



Head/Neck: Alliance
Necklace of Slaying

+Dye: N/A

Body: Kirin's Osode of Striking

+Dye: N/A

Legs: Exarchic Bottoms of
Striking

+Dye: Deepwood Green

Feet: Doman Steel Greaves of
Striking

+Dye: N/A

Hands: Tekko #55

+Dye: N/A

A Samurai built for battle. The armor is an old FFXI armor piece. The rest is just colors that match well, primary being green, iron, and gold.

Optional Weapon:
Shinryu's Ephemeral Katana

The Prelude In Violet

By Nydoa Lunastar



Head/Neck: Elegant Rimless Glasses

+Dye: Metallic Purple

Body: Nezha Lady Togi

+Dye: Metallic Purple

Legs: Collegiate Skirt

+Dye: Metallic Purple

Feet: No.2 Type B Boots

+Dye: N/A

Hands: Dirndl's Wrist Torque

+Dye: Metallic Purple

Ny likes to have freedom of movement, while staying stylish whenever she's out and about or dancing across the battlefield.

Optional Accessory:
Paramour's Earring

Beatrix FF9

By Lady Beatrix



Head: Scion Rogue's Bandana
+Dye: N/A

Body: Neo-Ishgardian Top of Fending

+Dye: Pure White

Legs: No.2 Type B Leggings

+Dye: Metallic Red

Feet: High House Halfboots

+Dye: Pearl White

Hands: Neo-Ishgardian Gauntlets of Fending

+Dye: N/A

A recreation of Beatrix from Final Fantasy 9.

Princess Anantanoke

By Rea'dyu Books



Head: Warg Pelt of Healing
+Dye: N/A

Body: Coliseum Shawl
+Dye: N/A

Legs: Miqu'te Loincloth
+Dye: N/A

Feet: Lominsan Officer Boots
+Dye: N/A

Hands: Aurum Dress Gloves
+Dye: N/A

When I became a sage, I was accompanied on my travels by a young Ananta, Alpa. Together we traveled the fringes of Ala Mhigo in a quest that led to the creation of the gatekeepers. As we journeyed together, I adapted my armor to fit in more with the Ananta tribe.

Hop to the Moon

By Mayo Naise



Head: Endless Summer
Sunglasses

+Dye: Pure White

Body: Faire Joi

+Dye: Pure White

Legs: Star Spangled Subligar

+Dye: N/A

Feet: Lominsan Officer Boots

+Dye: Pure White

Hands: Demonic Gloves

+Dye: Pure White

When you wanna really feel that
Bowie vibe while you bounce on out
of this world.

When in Need

By Au'Jeanne Aykiz



Head: Cotton Scarf
+Dye: Celeste Green

Body: Extreme Survival Shirt
+Dye: Celeste Green

Legs: Craftsman's Coverall
Bottoms
+Dye: Celeste Green

Feet: Casual Boots
+Dye: Snow White

Hands: Gloves of Eternal
Passion
+Dye: Turquoise Blue

The first person you see after saying, "Hold my beer and watch this".



THE ULTIMATE WALTZ COOKBOOK



Spanish Flan

By: Mufinella Pemstein



Ingredients:

- 1 cup white sugar
- 5 eggs
- 1 (14 oz) can sweetened condensed milk
- 1 (12 fluid oz) can evaporated milk
- 1 tablespoon vanilla extract

Directions:

Preheat oven to 350 degrees F (175 degrees C).

In a medium saucepan over medium-low heat, melt sugar until liquefied and golden in color. Carefully pour hot syrup into a 9 inch round glass baking dish, turning the dish to evenly coat the bottom and sides. Set aside.

In a large bowl, beat eggs. Beat in condensed milk, evaporated milk and vanilla until smooth. Pour egg mixture into baking dish through fine mesh sieve to remove any eggy bits. Cover with aluminum foil to prevent burning.

Place dish in water bath and bake in preheated oven 60 minutes. Let cool completely.

To serve, carefully invert on serving plate with edges when completely cool.

Cajun Style KFC Famous Bowl

By: Xavdak Oreblood

Ingredients:

- Potatoes, diced
- 2 tbsp butter
- Dash of milk
- Chicken breast or thigh
- 2 eggs, scrambled (uncooked)
- Bread crumbs

Maque Choux (corn mixture)

- 64 oz bag of corn
- 10 tbsp butter
- 2 cup red onion, diced
- 2 cup celery, diced
- 2 cup green pepper, diced
- 3.5 tbsp minced garlic
- 2 tbsp Thyme
- 2.5 tsp cayenne flake
- 4 tbsp salt
- 2 tbsp black pepper
- 5 cup heavy whipping cream
- 10 tbsp of chicken demi
- 10 tbsp white wine
- 2.5 tsp sweet paprika



Directions:

Boil potatoes about 25-30 minutes. Mash and mix in butter and a dash of milk. Optional: add a dash black pepper and garlic powder to taste.

Bread and fry chicken according to favorite fried chicken recipe.

For Maque Choux: Combine butter, corn, onion, green pepper, and celery in large pan. Cook on medium until the corn caramelizes. Add everything else until it's a delicious creamy chunky mess.

Layer it Potatoes, Maque Choux, then Chicken. Drizzle your favorite hot sauce on top and enjoy!

Broccoli Cheddar Soup

By: Kaymia Evenriver



Ingredients:

- 1 large onion, diced
- 2 carrots, peeled and shredded
- 12 oz fresh broccoli
- 1 tbsp + 1/4 cup Butter
- 1/4 cup flour
- 2 cups chicken broth (or veggie broth)
- 2 cups half and half
- 2 cups cheddar cheese, shredded
- Salt, pepper, garlic powder, paprika

Directions:

Cook the onion in butter until translucent (about 1 tablespoon butter) then add in 1/4 cup butter and melt. Whisk in flour and stir constantly until a light brown. Once you have a roux, add in the broth slowly while whisking then the half and half until fully blended.

Add broccoli, carrots and spices to taste then cook until tender about 10-15 mins on med heat. Take off heat and either leave chunky or make it creamier using an immersion blender. Add shredded cheese until melted in.

Serve with sprinkle of cheese or dollop of sour cream if you want, also great with crackers!

Coffee Biscuit (FFXIV Cookbook)

By: Soliloqui Viator



Ingredients:

1 tbsp espresso powder
1 tbsp hot water
2 1/2 cups all-purpose flour
1/4 cup whole-wheat flour
1/4 tsp salt
1 tsp baking powder
1 cup unsalted butter, room temp
1/2 cup beet sugar
1/2 cup firmly packed brown sugar
2 eggs
1 tsp vanilla extract
8 oz dark chocolate chips

Directions:

Combine espresso powder and hot water in small bowl. In medium bowl, combine flours, salt, and baking powder.

In large bowl, cream butter and sugars until smooth. Add eggs, vanilla, and espresso powder mixture until just blended. Slowly mix in flour mixture until the dough just comes together. Fold in chocolate chips.

Line two baking sheets with parchment paper. Divide the dough into egg-sized balls and place on baking sheets. Using palm of hand, gently press dough down to make thick disks. Refrigerate for 1 hour.

Preheat oven to 350 degrees F. Line not-cold cookie sheet with parchment paper. Place cookies with 2 inches of space between. Bake for 15-20 minutes until slightly spread and golden on edges.

Let cool completely on cooling rack.

Homemade Hummus

By: Grimm'thera Skogkatt



Ingredients:

- 1 can chickpeas
- $\frac{1}{4}$ cup lemon juice, possibly less (to taste)
- 3 medium-to-large clove garlic
- $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon fine sea salt, to taste
- 4 tbsp tahini
- 2 to 4 tbsp ice water, more as needed
- 1 tbsp extra-virgin olive oil
- Black Pepper, to Taste

Directions:

Combine ingredients using a food processor. For best results, do in the following order:

Add tahini and lemon juice, blend for a minute or so until a paste forms.

From here, add in one ingredient at a time for chickpeas and garlic, allowing it to blend for a minute between additions. Mix in spices as well before finishing.

When mixture is smooth, add in ice water and blend until light and fluffy.

Serve topped with a drizzle of EVOO, optional dash of paprika.

Note: You can spice up your hummus using a dash of ground cumin during the mixing process!

If you want an even smoother hummus and have the time to spare, peel the chickpeas before blending.

Starlight Dodo (FFXIV Cookbook)

By: Lyra Belnades



Ingredients:

- One 6 lb whole duck
- Salt
- Black pepper
- 5 garlic cloves, crushed
- 1 shallot, halved
- 1 lemon, halved
- 1 small orange, halved
- 1 rosemary sprig

Glaze:

- 1/2 cup honey
- 1 tbsp orange juice
- 1 tbsp molasses

Directions:

Remove neck and trim excess fat/skin from duck. Place duck, breast side up in mesh strainer in sink. Boil 6 cups water. Pour half of the hot water over the duck. Turn the duck over. Pour rest of the water over. This will tighten the skin.

Move duck to wire rack. Generously salt entire duck. Tie legs together with butcher's twine. Refrigerate uncovered for 12-24 hours.

Preheat oven to 350 F. Take duck out of fridge and pat dry. Season duck with pepper. Stuff duck cavity with garlic, shallot, lemon, orange, and rosemary. Place duck breast side up on wire rack over baking sheet or in roasting pan and bake for 1 hour. Turn duck over and bake another 25 minutes.

In small bowl, combine glaze ingredients. Remove duck from oven and brush with glaze. Bake for another 25 minutes. Repeat process for opposite side for additional 20 minutes. Glaze once more and cook until 160 F in breast meat.

Remove and cover in aluminum foil to rest for 15 minutes before carving.

Squash Soup with Ricotta Dumplings

By: Rin Stormrazer



Ingredients:

- 1 medium butternut squash, deseeded
- 1 small pumpkin (deseeded) or 1 large can pumpkin puree
- 1 sweet potato, diced and roasted (optional)
- 2 shallots, finely minced
- 2 garlic cloves, minced
- 1 celery stalk, minced
- 1 large carrot, minced
- 1 medium white onion, minced
- 2-3 whole sage leaves
- Butter or olive oil (for cooking)
- 2 cups soup stock of choice
- 1 cup half and half or heavy cream (almond milk can sub)
- Dollop of ricotta cheese
- Salt, to taste
- One 8 oz tub ricotta cheese
- 1 large egg yolk
- 3-4 tbsp grated parmesan cheese
- 4 tbsp flour
- 1/2 tsp salt
- 1 tsp ground sage
- 1 tbsp fresh-chopped sage

Directions:

Soup:

Roast and puree 1 medium butternut squash and 1 small pumpkin (or use 1 large can of pumpkin puree); if you like it chunky, dice 1/3 of the butternut squash before roasting and add to soup when done.

Saute in butter or olive oil shallots, garlic, celery, carrot and onion; add a few whole sage leaves about halfway through sauteeing.

Add puree to sauteed veggies. Pour in soup stock and half and half/heavy cream/almond milk. If you want it smooth, use immersion blender when fully cooked. This recipe is also good with chunks of sweet potato. Add ricotta cheese and salt to taste.

Dumplings:

In a medium mixing bowl, combine last seven ingredients from list.

Heat a flat griddle or large skillet on medium, add olive oil to coat the pan or oil spray and drop 1 tbsp of the cheese mixture, leave room for flipping. Flatten out cheese mixture once in the pan by wetting the back of a spoon and gently tapping the tops. Cook for 3 mins per side.

BBQ Chicken Bacon Pizza

By: Marshal Keen



Ingredients:

- 1 unbaked pizza crust or premade dough
- 1-2 Tbsp olive oil
- 1 large Garlic clove, smashed
- 2 cups cooked chicken, roughly chopped
- 2-3 strips bacon
- 3/4 cup barbecue sauce, or to taste
- 8 oz Mozzarella cheese
- Half one small red onion, diced

Directions:

Toss the chicken with about 1/4 cup of barbecue sauce until lightly coated. Set aside. Can use less sauce if preferred.

Cook bacon until crispy. Chop into bits. Set aside.

Prepare pizza dough according to the directions. Place olive oil and garlic in a microwave safe container and microwave for 30 seconds, then allow it to sit for 5 minutes.

Brush prepared pizza crust with garlic oil. Top with cheese, chicken, bacon, and red onion. Drizzle remaining barbecue sauce over the top.

Bake according to the pizza crust directions.

Forzean Chronicles

A deeper look into the lore of FFXIV

Special Edition: Interview with the Twins

(Warning: Mild spoilers for content up through Shadowbringers.)



Featuring...



Alisaie



Interviewer



Alphinaud

Interviewer: First, I wanted to thank you both for taking time out of your schedules to sit down for this chat. I know you two would love nothing more than to run off on your next adventure with a certain mutual friend, but Eorzea is very interested in their two favorite child prodigies.

Alisaie: Please, I'd be loathe to think of what would happen if my dear brother's ego got any larger.

Alphinaud: Alisaie...[A deep inhale] That is very flattering; we would be happy to answer any questions that you may have.

Interviewer: Excellent! First, let us set the stage then? You have both been traveling with the Warrior of Light as Scions for quite some time now, but is it true that you did not always see exactly eye to eye at first?

Alphinaud: Yes, well. My sister and I can be quite dissimilar despite appearances...but only in method, rarely in outcome.

Alisaie: I've never shared Alphinaud's love for politics. He was most at home upon the debate stage when we attended the Studium. What we both saw in Eorzea back then was a land we desperately wanted to help. It was only that we had quite different ideas of what that help looked like.

Alphinaud: Or what sort of assistance was needed, or, granted, even desired. While I saw the wisdom of working with the Scions of the Seventh Dawn, and the city states, my sister saw her own path, and was unafraid to walk it, even if it meant doing so without companions quite as close at hand.

Interviewer: I see...but eventually your paths did cross again, and since then you've shared in your adventures.

Alisaie: Yes, well, sometimes it takes traveling deep into the center of the Earth...

Alphinaud: ...or facing ghosts of the past...

Alisaie: ...to understand that you stand stronger when you stand as one.

Interviewer: That you've realized as much is clear for all to see, but can you tell us a bit about how each of you came to travel with the Hero of Eorzea?

Alisaie: Oh yes! Well, I am sure my brother has more stories that he can tell about the Warrior of Light than I, but our journeys truly began after Defeating the Warriors of Darkness.

Interviewer: Warriors of Darkness?

Alisaie: Yes! Warriors from a different...well...they were from quite a ways away, and at the time were causing all sorts of havoc related to the primals. And so, well...I was never one for grand retellings. But you should have seen The Warrior of Light in action! [Frantically begins waving her arms]

Alphinaud: [A soft laugh] She does get rather excitable during the retellings, whether she claims to be 'one' for them or not, doesn't she? As for myself, I would say that I first got to know the Warrior as themselves rather than a heroic figure when we were forced to relocate to Ishgard. Times like that, you do learn who you can depend most fully on, and I hope that the feeling is mutual.

Interviewer: It does sound like you've all shared many impressive adventures. Of all of your travels, what would you say your favorite place to visit is? Or perhaps the place that stood out most.

Alphinaud: We've traveled so far, and for so long; it is rare for us to have the time to merely enjoy our surroundings. I cannot say I've stopped for long enough to give it much thought. Ah! I will say that visiting the Dravanian Hinterlands and seeing the remnants of the old Sharlayan colony was very enlightening at the time.

Alisaie: That is just like you to say something like that. Hmph. I rather enjoyed Lydha Lran.

Alphinaud: You cannot be serious, not after they tried to...

Interviewer: Ah yes! We did hear something about a certain game involving fey and a dress! Was there any truth to that?!

Alisaie: Weeeeeelllllll...

Alphinaud: Not another word! I will not have it!



Interviewer: So if not that...then what was your fondest memory of your adventurers?

Alisaie: It may seem selfish, but out of everything...getting to help Ga Bu come back around is what I keep coming back to, what makes me smile.

Alphinaud: That's not selfish at all. For the longest time, I never bothered to remember the individuals we had saved, never mind their names. But at the end of the day, you and the Warrior helped me to see that if you ignore the individual and only look to the bigger picture, you miss the entire reason why we keep moving forward.

Interviewer: It makes sense that when the world seems to constantly be at stake, you take joy in the little moments. What keeps you both going when times get tough?

Alphinaud: Sometimes, it's as simple as remembering that no matter what, we're both here. We both still have one another, and the rest of our dear friends.

Alisaie: And it is remembering to stop and take measure of the small things that make the world worth saving.

Interviewer: You two truly are wise beyond your years, but what Eorzea is really interested in is how our favorite twins see each other! What would you say is your favorite trait about your brother/sister?

Alphinaud: I will always envy my sister's determination. Once she's set on doing something, there is nothing that can stand in her way. I remember when she was first admitted to the Studium, Alisaie was determined to become a master fencer. Mother nor Father could dissuade her, and eventually they had to give in to her whims.

Alisaie: Well that is a rather nice way of praising bullheadedness, I'll give you that! [Laughing]. I've said it before, my brother never ceases to amaze me. He can take on a room full of older, experienced world leaders and have them agreeing to his point of view within the hour. I have not the patience for politics, but Alphinaud is a marvel at it.

Interviewer: And now that we've gotten all of the sweetness out of the way, what about your brother/sister annoys you to tears?

Alphinaud: Now can I mention the bullheadedness?

Alisaie: I suppose if you must but I really wish the girls at the Studium stopped mistaking me for you when they were trying to ask you out.

Alphinaud: Don't be ridiculous!

Alisaie: It happened at least thrice! And that other time with Estinien!



Interviewer: Ah, that's right! Alphinaud, we heard that you have taken a sort of brotherly affection for a certain Azure Dragoon. Do you care to tell us why you look up to him so?

Alisaie: He's just envious that he hasn't had his growth spurt yet.

Alphinaud: That isn't all it...I mean...we journeyed through Dravania, parlayed with dragons, and brought an end to a thousand year war side by side. Those are not bonds idly forgotten.

Interviewer: And Alisaie? Who is your role model and why?

Alisaie: Well...I suppose besides our dear late Grandfather, I'd say I most look up to the Warrior of Light. To see so much, to do so much and to continue to fight and be able to see the joy in the small day to day things...like I said. It's what makes everything worthwhile.

Interviewer: Is there any advice you two would like to give your friend, going forward?

Alphinaud: Remember that, no matter what, we all believe in you, and that you have friends the world over waiting in the wings to help.

Alisaie: Do not overburden yourself! Rest and eat well and remember we are all here for you!

Interviewer: Finally, and perhaps most importantly, What would you say the other's favorite food is?

Alisaie: Oh, Alphinaud and I are hardly picky, growing up in Sharlayan you learn to eat what's in front of you and not complain over much.

Alphinaud: [in mocking tones] So long as there are no pickles. I remember when Alisaie was nine she near threw a fit at the chefs for daring to...

Alisaie: Alphinaud, enough! And who could blame me?! Disgusting, soggy, sour things. There is not a single thing that pickles improve.

Alphinaud: As you say.

Interviewer: Aversion to pickles aside, is there not a single food, not even coffee biscuits?

Alphinaud: Please. I think if I had another coffee biscuit I am like to become one. No.

Alisaie: What about....

Alphinaud: Ah...yes.

Both: Pizza!



What's New In Waltz?

A Monthly Highlight

Happy New Year, Waltzians! It's been a busy end of the year leading into a still pretty busy new year with the launch of the latest expansion: Endwalker! But before we get into that, let's highlight activities leading up to that!

Back in October, we had another great month of participation for our Mana Points program. The winners for October were:

Leinbeau Deathscythe: Waltz Gift Card
Gwell Chninkel: Pantomime Emote
Rexxar Talos: Character Drawing
Asadaa Sinon: Pack of Mounts
Caelan Stormbrook: Game Time Card

We also had a rare Golden Powerball with TWO winners! Congratulations to Jack House and Fastus Atrax who split the 50 million Gil jackpot.

Rocking out the end of the month we had our annual All Saint's Eve event: Waltz's Wicked Fright Night! For a majority of the night, we had the pleasure of having the Songbirds playing music in our yard, everyone had a great time dancing to Eorzea's greatest hits! We also had an hour-long set masterpiece by our very own DJ Brock Hampton, epic as always. This year for our haunted tour, hosted and narrated by the mythical voice Kellin Silverwillow, the event was filmed by the very gracious Noriko Takaya. You can check it out at <https://vimeo.com/660807355/37cd72dc8c>.



The rooms were quite spooky this year and it was a tough competition but the winners of the Halloween Room Decorating Contest were:

1st Place: Indigo Violet - 5,000,000 gil

2nd Place: Asterin Whitethorn - 2,000,000 gil

3rd Place: Noriko Takaya - 1,000,000 gil

In November, we had another big Mana Point raffle with the following winners:

Bouncy Bunny: Eldthurs Horn

Judah Mannowdog: \$25.00 Waltz Merch Shop Gift Card

Dezz Riva: Sand Fox Minion

Nyxa Norvalin: A Collection of Minions

Hydri Paradus: Character Drawing

Ossy: "Snap" Emote

Towards the end of the month, we had another exciting Hide and Seek event. During these events, we have specific players out hiding in the field where members have to go and see how many they can find, raking up the points. We had a total of six rounds of hunting action! Everyone had a great time and we had three winners! Kai Linh came in first with Beka Snow and Sorea tying for second place.

In preparation for the (delayed) launch of Endwalker, we held a leaders meeting to discuss details for the launch as well as ensuring we were all prepared for the chaos to come. Following this meeting, we got together with everyone in Waltz for our annual Town Hall. Here we had a healthy discussion about expectations for the future as well as detailing spoiler warnings. We had a huge turn out and lots of positive member feedback, we're always thankful for this supportive community and how well we all get along!

At the beginning of December we saw...QUEUEWALKER. Just kidding but seriously, thank you to everyone for your patience and good nature during the launch of the Endwalker expansion. Everyone was respectful of others playing through the new content and kept spoilers to a rare occurrence! We rode out the hours-long queues together, joking and helping with the new content. We hope you all had some great memories from launch (and hope you soon forget the pain of the 3001 error).

We had yet another Golden Powerball at the end of the month, another two-way win! This time there was a bit of controversy as Yuzu won using Corvus' regular numbers (we kid, they shared the money anyway). They split the winnings with Judah Mannowdog!

While December was light on events due to the new content taking up everyone's time, exploring new maps and learning new skills, we did make time for our yearly gift giveaway. Waltz Holiday Giveaway featured Santa Brock and Santa Yami (who stepped in when servers yeeted Brock from existence at the very beginning of the event). Along with their army of happy little elves, they handed out gifts to hundreds of people in Limsa Lominsa. We apologize to the patrons of the Drowning Wench for the line of people weaving through your tables into the wee hours of the evening.



It has been a while but we felt we needed a few new faces to join our Flare team! Thanks to all the hard work and positive contributions they have made in the FC, along with a strong presence during the rough couple weeks of launch, we brought in THREE new Flares: Beka, Winter, and Indigo! They jumped right into the deep end and held their own, thank you for your hard work!

Ring in the new year, we got together and made a huge change...to our Ranks! While the rest of our ranks felt no change, we did introduce a new rank: Amplifier. What is an Amplifier? Amplifier is a term we are giving to "Community Leaders," members who wish to be involved in the Leadership of Waltz and give weight to the decision making that happens. Amplifiers will be able to take on as much (or as little) of the Leadership responsibilities that make Waltz function as they want. It also alleviates the "negative" parts of managing the Free Company by removing the tough decisions (like complaints and escalations) and letting Amplifiers focus on building the community and bringing people together. We had quite a few people step up wanting to take on the role and, while it is an ongoing process of assessing all who applied and making sure to pick the best people to fill this new role, here is the list of our starting team of Amps:

Asterin Whitethorn - Ayumi Enoshima
Etney Barrows - Moon' Moon
Ralia Lunafell - Soliloque Viator
Mazo Bazo - Rexxar Talos
Yami Ryuujin

Rounding out the end of the month we had one final and fan-favorite event: The Nekkid Footrace! This time we stepped outside of our usual ARR and HW haunts and took some new paths through SB and SHB maps! While the roads were treacherous and many lives were lost (and rezzed, and lost again), the brave souls who came out victorious were:

1st Place: Mighty Mog and Aya

2nd Place: Kaast and Ayumi

3rd: Kaja and Kristo

For the period of this issue of the newsletter, we had two winners of the Good Samaritan award. We want to say a huge thank you to Indigo Violet and Moon' Moon for being such great contributors to the Waltz community!

That wraps up past events for the FC! Our next big upcoming event is our Valentine's Day party. Come on out for our first-ever partially RP event, featuring bunny maids inside and out at our dining tables! All are invited so bring a friend, bring a ton, and have fun playing with our beautiful staff! The event will also feature a night of music by the epicly bearded DJ Brock Hampton! Stay tuned for details on our website!

Have a fun and safe winter and we'll see you in spring!



THANK YOU

Thank you to the following for their efforts in making this issue possible:

Asterin Whitethorn: Interviewer

Diana Starborn: Graphics Designer, Photog

Mufinella Pemstein: Editor, Writer

Freya Stormfall: Editor

Brock Hampton: Cover Design, Graphics Designer

Soliloqui Asantiani: Writer and Interviewer

Hydri Paradus: Content Provider

And YOU, our awesome readers!

See you next issue!