



Bear Briefs

The Newsletter of the Heart Of Texas Bears

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AUGUST 2005

From the Desk of the President

The flight from hell ended the perfect vacation or, I should say, the lack of flight. After eight hours in the San Jose airport we finally boarded the American flight only to be told that a compass was out and the air conditioning stopped. Howls rose up from fellow passengers and small children became demon possessed. The pregnant stewardess passed out holy ice water but it did little good to shut up the three big boned gals that decided to screech out the horrors of **their** day. You know, I would have been right there with them if I had painted my fat little toes and forced them into high heeled sandals. The airlines should profile these types and sedate them accordingly.

Aside from this lost day, we had a great time catching up with old friends and making new ones. Lazy Bear was big fun. I heard there was about five thousand Bears in attendance, I am recovering from whiplash.

Always, at some point during a Bear Run I end up talking with other officers of various Bear Clubs about Club business and, bottom line, we

all agree the best approach is to keep it fun for the members. I got some great ideas from the South Bay Bears and the Palm Springs Bears.

With "Back to the Woods" just around the corner I hope many of you will plan to attend. As a Club we are very fortunate to be a member of TCC and have use of Buzzard's Peak. I have been to several of the Runs out there and can tell you it is far from "roughing it". Over the years I have watched several members get hooked on camping, my partner being one of them. It took 320 thread count Egyptian cotton sheets and an air mattress but he is now one of the toughest little campers out there. So if you have any concerns call us and we will be more than happy to tell you how much fun the landsite is.

The only regret I had about the fourteen days in CA is I missed the pool party at Steve Rison's, from all reports everyone had a great time and I look forward to seeing the pictures. There was mention of one problem and it has come up several times before and a suggestion from the Palm Springs Bears should fix

it. If you were not invited to Steve's because he does send out and hands out invitation's and you are not a current member of the HOT Bears, you will be asked to join the Club or make a suggested five dollar donation for each person in your group. Most of the membership knows that we are very lucky to have a member that opens his home many times a year and if you bring more than one guest, I hope you will keep in mind the cost and effort put into entertaining a large group of Bears. Also keep in mind that unless you are invited to spend the night, the days of "crash pads" are over, call a cab and get a hotel room.

I want to stress that this is not directed at the membership but to the very small group who feel they have a right to this behavior and who could ruin certain events for us or at the very least make a host think twice before opening their homes.

Like my Dad use to tell me "Use you head for something other than a hat rack"

Hugs,
Ed Burlison

Sponsors

The HOT Bears are grateful for the continuing support of the following people and companies. In consideration of their long-time contributions, please support those who support us.

TapeLenders

TapeLenders Video - Outlines
1114 West 5th Street (78703)
(512) 472-0844
www.TapeLenders.com
10% discount on all items with
HOT Bear membership card

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(512) 454-0555
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512-219-5858 office
amykrause@austin.rr.com

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Donnie Anderson
254-557-1334

August Birthday Bears

Harry Boudreaux.....8/4	Jon Miller 8/19
David Jackson.....8/4	John L. Gahr 8/20
John Kilman8/6	Rene Thomas 8/24
Ferenc Kopylay8/16	Bob Preston..... 8/28



Upcoming Events

Saturday, August 6

Bears Day Out breakfast at 10am at **Trudy's North Star Restaurant & Bar**, 8820 Burnet Road, Austin, TX 78757, (512) 454-1474. Join us at Trudy's for their great breakfast buffet!

Saturday, August 13

Dive-in movie! Join us at Steve Rison's house for the remake of the classic movie "Reefer Madness." Jack Landers & Mike Hall are co-hosting this pool / movie party with Steve. Bring a potluck dish, something to drink, and join us in the pool to watch the movie! The fun starts at 7pm.

Sunday, August 14

Monthly Bear Beer Bust at the Chain

Drive (504 Willow Drive, 78701) from 4pm — 8pm. Join the Bears at our home bar for **\$0.50** draft beer. Come on down and end your weekend enjoying the afternoon with your Bear Brothers.

Thursday, August 25

Bears Night Out dinner this month is at Din Ho Chinese BBQ. They are located on Highway 183 at Ohlen Road, in the Target shopping center. Their address is 8557 Research Blvd, 78758. Join us at 7pm for some great Chinese BBQ!

Saturday, September 3

Bears Day Out breakfast at 10am at **Trudy's North Star Restaurant & Bar**, 8820 Burnet Road, Austin, TX 78757,

(512) 454-1474. Join us at Trudy's for their great breakfast buffet!

October 7 — 9

Back to the Woods... A HOT Bears run at Buzzards' Peak. The HOT Bears will be hosting a run at the TCC Landsite at Buzzards' Peak near Cameron, Texas. Three days and two nights camping under the stars with Bears in the woods. \$65 per person. All food, drink, entertainment, and a run pin included. Don't have a tent or trailer? No problem. Stay in the bunkhouse. For more information, please email: btw@HeartOfTexasBears.org

A Note from a HOT Bear Member

My dear club brothers,

I am writing this open letter because I have just been through the most terrible ordeal of my life, and I hope that by writing this I can save some of you from having to face the hell that I have just experienced. We've all heard about the risks of mixing alcohol and sex. I want to give you a personal account that I hope will serve as a wake up call and encourage many of us to rethink some of our behaviors.

Many of you have been bear runs across the state and the rest of the country. If you've been to any of these, you know the amount of alcohol that tends to flow at these events. A little over two months ago, at a run event, I let myself overindulge to an unusually high degree, and I wound up having a play session with a gentleman who was much more inebriated than I was. We've stayed in touch since then, and more than once we've had a good laugh over the fact that neither of us could remember everything that happened that night.

This memory lapse took on a whole new dimension, however, when during one recent conversation it came up that he was HIV+. We were both horrified to realize that we had not discussed it that night, and that neither of us could remember whether or not we had played safe. We agreed that we had to assume we had not, and that I had to be tested immediately. This was on a Sunday night, so I had to wait until Monday morning to call and make an appointment for the test.

If any of you have ever had to take an HIV test for other than routine precautionary reasons, you know the agony of having to wait to take the test, and then the greater agony of having to wait for the results. For those of you who haven't had that experience, let me just say that it is possibly the worst, most terrifying experience you can ever have. Fortunately, I was able to take the new test that gives results in 20 minutes, so I was spared the 10 day wait. But there is nothing—I repeat—nothing worse than sitting in a waiting room full of strangers, waiting to

learn if you're carrying a deadly virus inside your body. After waiting what seemed like an eternity, I finally got the result—negative. A tremendous relief—first hurdle down. However, in order to be fully certain, I will have to take follow-up tests at 3 and 6 months after my exposure.

My friends, I do not want to see any of you have to go through this ordeal. We all know the dangers of HIV, how to get it, and how not to get it. But studies have shown that people are far less likely to practice safer sex if they are intoxicated at the time of the activity. I have learned this the hard way, and can tell you that as for myself, I will be keeping my drinking to a strict limit at any party or function where sexual play is a possibility from now on. And I would like to plead with all of you—if you're planning to play, **please** drink in moderation and keep your wits about you. Otherwise you're playing a dangerous game that you just might lose. Believe me—it's just not worth it.

—Anonymous



STEVE'S MID-SUMMER SPLASH



Photos Copyright © 2005 Michael J. Hall <mfj@io.com>

The View from Buzzards' Peak

[submitted by Peter Reid, aka Mr Grizzly, 2005]

Well, "Back to the Woods" is only a few months away. Posters are going up in Houston, San Antonio, Dallas, Fort Worth, and Austin. A lot of interest has been shown on Bear411 and I am getting emails from all over asking for details. Here is what has been planned so far:



- There will be a simple, serve yourself meal for those of you who are arriving Friday night. Tom B. is planning Saturday's meals — including a spectacular Saturday evening feast. Yours truly will be cooking a Sunday morning breakfast to go.
- Ed B. and John C. are hard at work planning a huge show for Saturday night. From what I have heard, it will go down in history of one of the best "happenings" at the landsite — its not to be missed!
- John C. is accepting applications that are starting to come in on a regular basis now. We expect to get the bulk of them in August. If you want to stay in the bunkhouse or have a travel trailer, I encourage you to get your application in as soon as you can to reserve your space.
- Lance B. is busy at work creating special prizes that will be given out at the awards Ceremony on Sunday morning.
- Kirk L. is creating the silly games offered during the day. These include:
 - i) *Catch yer balls* — A goal is made out of PVC with 3 rungs. Bolos made of 2 golf balls connected by rope are tossed at the goal.
 - ii) *Where do you want it?* — Using a blowgun made of PVC and mini-marshmallows as bullets, players shoot at a target from a pre-determined distance.
 - iii) *Snugglin' in the Cave* — A set of three baskets is set up ascending. Wide mouth, medium mouth,

small mouth. Using a seesaw like device, a stuffed bear is tossed toward the baskets.

- iv) *How Many Can You Fit?* — In a bucket of water are 12 ping-pong balls floating. Using only your mouth (hands tied behind back and player blindfolded), players fish for 60 seconds for ping pong balls and get the points that is on the balls they fish out. Think "bobbing for apples".
- v) *Flinging Shoes* — Horseshoe Tournament. Standard tournament scheme, single elimination.
- vi) *Dominoes* — We play an accelerated version of Mexican train. The tournament will run all weekend.

There will be awards given for: best cocktail party presentation, best tasting cocktail, winner of each silly game, best campsite decoration, best volunteer helper, and a few special awards that will be determined as we get closer.

As some of you might know, the Texas Conference of Clubs organization has been around since 1983. It is an all volunteer organization put together for the purpose of having a safe place for gay men and women to hold retreats and campouts (aka "runs"). Over the years, it has grown and become a very civilized place to enjoy. Running water, toilets, a professional grade kitchen, a walk-in cooler, a performance space, and a sound system are just a few of the amenities that have been installed over the years. It takes a lot of work and cash to keep the place going. "Back to the Woods" will benefit not only the charity work of Heart of Texas Bears, but also helps keep TCC, a unique organization, running.

I encourage you all to consider joining in on the fun. Applications can be found on-line at www.HeartOfTexasBears.org/bttw or you can all me directly: 512-996-9347. If you would like to know more about the TCC, information can be found here: www.TexasConferenceofClubs.org

This promises to be a blast!

—Peter

A Note from Your Club Secretary

Howdy bears!

Your friendly Club secretary, here, welcoming you all to summer in Austin. I'm pleased to see that the bear events are heating up along with the temperatures. I hope to see many of you at these fun events we have scheduled. It's wonderful that our club has members who open their homes to such events as movie nights, game nights, and other parties. Thank you all!

The reason I'm here taking up space in the Bear Briefs this month is to let all of the membership know that I am handling the club e-mail now. If you send a note to info@HeartOfTexasBears.org I will read it, and make certain that any problems or concerns you have are addressed by an officer. From my efforts at keeping the club's records, I can see that a lot of our information is woefully out-of-date. So, please, if you have moved or changed e-mail addresses or telephone

numbers since you joined the club, go ahead and send an e-mail to info@HeartOfTexasBears.org and make certain that the roster reflects these changes.

If you're like me, you're getting excited about several big events in the coming months, like our very own run to the TCC Landsite, and the "UnRun" that will take place in November around our Mr. H.O.T. Bear contest. The officers recognize that it's the support we receive from you that allows us to plan such a diverse calendar of events. I wanted you to know that we value your support and participation, and we'll definitely be contacting you, the membership, to ask for your help in volunteering at some level in the near future. Don't get left out of the fun! And please, make sure I have your current contact information.

Mickey Ferguson
Secretary, HOT Bears

Heart Of Texas Bears

Back to the Woods '05

Run Application and Agreement



HOTB- Back to the Woods camp out will be held at the Texas Conference of Clubs (TCC) landsite at Buzzards' Peak from October 7-9, 2005. The landsite is located near Cameron, Texas and is convenient to Austin, San Antonio,

Dallas, and Houston. Facilities include showers, toilets, walk in cooler, ice machine, kitchen, and a pole barn. All facilities and many campsites are handicap accessible.

This is an outdoor, camping event. We expect that all attendees treat the land with respect. Littering and/or causing harm to wildlife will not be tolerated. We expect that you will keep a clean campsite and leave the land as good or better than it was when you arrived.

The entire weekend is provided by volunteers. Treat your servers and hosts accordingly. Jump in and help out if you see something that requires it. Your help will be appreciated and remembered.

For medical emergencies, there will be an on-site EMT. For severe cases, there is a good hospital 15 min away.

Basic fee includes a campsite, meals on Friday evening, all day Saturday, and Sunday morning, entertainment, and a run pin.

Please note that the road into the landsite is not paved and larger RVs will have limited maneuverability.

We attempt to limit attendance to 100 people.

All sites and facilities are provided on a first come, first serve basis at the time of check in.

Official check in starts at Noon on Friday. If you would like to arrive earlier, please call to make arrangements.

By signing this application, you certify that you are at least 21 years of age, and agree not to bring any pets, firearms, explosives or illegal substances of any kind whatsoever on to the Texas Conference of Clubs premises. You agree to comply with all applicable laws of the various governmental agencies during "HOTB- Back to the Woods", and while on the premises. You also agree to be solely responsible for any and all personal property whatsoever that you bring to "HOTB-Back to the Woods". You agree to hold blameless the Texas Conference of Clubs and Heart of Texas Bears, their officers and members, their member clubs, a member of a member club, independent or commercial members, from any and all liability in the event of your accidental injury or death while on the premises.

Questions? e-mail: BTTW@HeartOfTexasBears.org

phone: Peter @ 512-996-9347

www.HeartOfTexasBears.org

Base Run Fees:

- \$65 if received by September 7
- \$85 if received by September 23
- \$110 after September 23 or at the gate

Options (available on a first come first serve basis)

- \$15 Bunkhouse accommodations (advance notice required)
- \$10 Electrical hook-up
- \$35 RV Electrical hook-up (limited areas)

Total Enclosed:

\$

For the purposes of book keeping, please fill out one application per person and enclose separate checks for each participant. Make checks payable to HOTB-Back to the Woods, mail to:

HOTB- Back to the Woods
Post Office Box 684391
Austin, Texas 78768-4391

There is a \$25 fee for returned checks. All fees must be paid in advance before entry is permitted. This outdoor event will be held rain or shine. Except in the unlikely instance of event cancellation, all fees are non-refundable- but are transferable to another attendee with written permission.

Admission to this event is contingent upon acceptance of this application by HOTB who reserves the right to accept or reject any application solely at its discretion. Violation of any of the provisions in this agreement shall constitute grounds for immediate expulsion from the TCC grounds.

Name

Address

City, State, Zip

Telephone

Email (for confirmation)

Club Affiliation

Expected Arrival Time

I will be staying in (circle one):

Tent Bunkhouse Camper (Size _____)

I have read and agree to the terms and conditions as stated in this application.

Signature/Date



A proud member of the
Texas Conference of Clubs
texasconferenceofclubs.com

August

www.HeartOfTexasBears.org

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
	1	2	3	4	5 Alamo City Entertainment – San Antonio	6 Alamo City Entertainment – San Antonio 10a: Bears Day Out Breakfast Trudy's North Star, 8820 Burnet Road, Austin, 78757 512.454.1474
7 Alamo City Entertainment – San Antonio	8	9	10	11	12	13 7p: Dive-In Movie at Steve Rison's house
14 4-8p: Bear Bust The Chain Drive 504 Willow Street Austin, TX 78701 512.480.9017	15	16	17	18	19 TCC Activity Weekend	20 TCC Activity Weekend
21 TCC Activity Weekend	22	23	24	25 7p: Bears Night Out at Din Ho Chinese BBQ. 8557 Research Blvd, 78758. 512.832.8788	26	27
28	29	30	31			

View the latest calendar information for this month and future months on the HOT Bears web site

2005