



# Bear Briefs

The Newsletter of the Heart Of Texas Bears

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MARCH 2006

## From the Desk of the President



The weekend of the gloomy, icy conditions I made my way up to the TCC landsite for meetings and the Activity weekend. On Sunday, I woke early, got bundled up and went to the kitchen to make coffee. Everything was filmed in a thin glaze of ice and on only a few occasions in my life has there been such a silence. I caught myself barely breathing and moving in slow deliberate motions, afraid of breaking this spell.

I decided to walk up to Buzzard's Peak and realized I had only been up there once, a couple of years ago, during a Lonestar Run. When I reached the memorial rocks with the names of men I have never met, I wondered what paths they walked while alive and how they affected those that remembered them in this way. Was it their charm and humor, their zest for life? Maybe their inner peace or beauty? Whatever the reasons, they are remembered in a peaceful place for all to enjoy. A place to meditate on who we are and how we affect those around us. As the morning light brightened, I took a

different path down the hill, remembering a line from one of my favorite poets:

Two roads diverged in a wood, and I —  
I took the one less traveled by,  
And that has made all the difference.  
— Robert Frost

On the walk back I thought of this Club, the friends in it, and what a difference it makes in my life to be a part of what we share. The day before, I told the group I was meeting with, "if you don't have a hidden agenda, if there's no malice in your actions and you do your best, you earn trust." Through this trust, everyone discovers it isn't "us and them", it's just "us".

I don't know what kind of system or political thought this is but I think I would sleep better at night if more people adopted it.

Our Eighth anniversary is coming up in April and we, the Board, decided to make this one a little more relaxed and enjoyable for as many of the members as possible. More information will follow on the Yahoo group, Mickey's e-mails and the April Bear Briefs. I will give you a hint: the pool heater is fixed!

Hugs,  
Ed Burleson

## 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.

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## March Birthday Bears

Chris Turano.....	3/3	CJ L.....	3/20
Ed Burleson.....	3/5	CJ Phillips.....	3/20
Rick McCoy.....	3/6	John Underwood.....	3/21
Eduardo Aparicio.....	3/10	Troy New .....	3/31
Thad G. ....	3/12		



## Upcoming Events

### Saturday, March 4

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! [Following breakfast, we will be journeying to Hamilton Pool. Bring your walking shoes and maybe your climbing shoes as well.](#)

### Wednesday, March 8

Bear Coffee. Join your Bear Brothers for some friendship, fun, and caffeine. This month we are going downtown to *Halcyon*, located at 218 West 4th Street; on the corner of 4th and Lavaca. Their phone number is 472-9637. Halcyon is a coffeehouse, a bar, and a lounge all in one. And for you cigar bears, they also have a good sized humidor. See you there at 7pm.

### Sunday, March 12

Monthly Bear Beer Bust at the Chain Drive (504 Willow Drive, Austin, TX 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.

### Sunday, March 12

Deadline for submitting nominations for the HOT Bear officers. We'll be holding elections at next month's Quarterly Business Meeting. Send your

nominations to [secretary@HeartOfTexasBears.org](mailto:secretary@HeartOfTexasBears.org).

### Saturday, March 18

Bear Breakfast at 10am at *Austin Diner*, 5408 Burnet Road, Austin, TX 78756, (512) 467-9552. This "2nd breakfast" for the month has become pretty popular. Join us for some great breakfast cooking and lots of Bear Brotherhood!

### Saturday, March 18

Bear Game Night. Troy and Steve are hosting a game night. The fun and games start at 7pm. Bring along a game (or two) and some snacks / drinks to share. See you there!

### Thursday — Sunday, March 23 – 26

TBRU 11 — The Eleventh Annual Texas Bear Round-Up put on by the Dallas Bears. Our own *Mr. HOT Polar Bear*, Steve Rison, is running for TBRU Polar Bear and our *Mr. HOT Bear*, Hayden Schrum, is running for TBRU Cub. If you're attending TBRU, be sure to support our Bears! As always, more information and a schedule of events can be found at [www.tbpu.org](http://www.tbpu.org).

### Friday — Sunday, March 24 – 26

TCC Activity Weekend. Come up to the TCC Landsite at Buzzards' Peak, camp out, and help with projects. It's a great

weekend get-away and you can help improve the landsite.

### Thursday, March 30

Bears Night Out dinner. This month we're going to *Moonshine Patio Bar* which is located downtown at 303 Red River. Their phone number is 236-9599. Their food offers a new twist on American basics. Join us there for dinner at 7pm.

### Saturday, April 1

Bears Day Out breakfast at 10am at *Trudy's North Star Restaurant & Bar*.

### Saturday, April 8

Steve's 11th Annual [Toga Party](#). Steve Rison has graciously invited all of the Bears to attend the party. Bring your toga, a potluck and something to drink (if you don't want beer). Keg beer provided. The festivities begin at 7pm.

### Sunday, April 9

Quarterly HOT Bear Business Meeting starting at 1pm at the Austin History Center. April's meeting includes the election of officers.

### Sunday, April 9

Monthly **Bear Beer Bust** at the Chain Drive.



## The View from Buzzards' Peak



### Something is in the air...

Oh, Happy Spring! The weather is getting warmer and the trees are budding up at the TCC Landsite. I have been noticing the wild flowers that got an early start— and a few are already popping their heads out to meet the cold weather we have recently had. We should be seeing the jonquils and iris bloom in late March. The sky is clear and the stars put on their nightly show. I noticed that Orion (along with the Nebula hanging off his belt), is clearly visible at a 45° angle up looking in the southern sky.

### Land Management

Ed and I start our tenure on Land Management. We are part of a small committee that is comprised of 5 people who are tasked with making recommendations for how the land is used. Some of the issues are controversial. As a group, we recognize that this is a difficult task— involving clear communication and patience. By their nature, new rules are hard to follow— but are put in place for the greater good and maintaining the property for the long-term by those who come after we are long gone. In our group, decisions are made by a simple majority— but not until

they are distributed and discussed by all the members. As issues come up, I will share the progress we are making via this column.

### Teddy Bear Picnic

The HOT Bears have taken on the task of improving an area that we have traditionally settled into when we attend runs at the Land Site. Mickey Ferguson has done a survey and plans are underway to create a garden like area to enhance and be in keeping with the community spirit that the landsite is famous for. I am looking forward to seeing what develops— and when the time is right, we will call on members who have the time to do the work needed to make this spot a special place. Dedicated to bears, it will be used by all members of TCC.

### Back2Woods2

The April Anniversary plans are also underway. At the party, we will introduce the poster for our TCC run this year tentatively called "Back2Woods2". This year's run will be even better than last year. Ideas are forming and planning has already begun. Kirk is doing the games again (remember the "They do WHAT in the woods...!?" game?). I am hoping that John will be able to get Carmelita Brazil to perform again, along with Crawlene DeGuttah (direct from her 9th ward corner!), and a few more. If you want to get involved with the run, we sure could use your

(Continued on page 3)

## The View from Buzzards' Peak

(Continued from page 2)

help. There are a lot of little tasks to do— and all of them are appreciated. This is a time when our club can really show others a great time. It's a very rewarding thing to do and for those of you who are new members, a great way to meet the rest of your club.

### LoneStar18

On Memorial Day Weekend, **LoneStar18** will be happening. It promises to be a great weekend. All proceeds go directly to supporting the Texas Conference of Clubs landsite facilities. It keeps the fees for individual clubs down and enables the conference to address the regular maintenance on the property. Yours truly will be stepping down as Mr. LoneStar 17 and cooking Saturday morning breakfast. For an application go to [TexasConferenceOfClubs.com](http://TexasConferenceOfClubs.com)

### Activity Weekends are FREE

On the March Activity weekend (March 24-26), we will uncover and de-winterize the kitchen, pole barn, and common areas. We will be clearing brush, stacking firewood, and doing all of the Spring Cleaning to get ready for the runs that start in April. Traditionally, this weekend will be attended by many— so it will not be all work. If you would like to go up and see the landsite for the first time, please let me know. Activity weekends are free. There are beds in the bunkhouse if you do not have a tent. Aside from doing the clean up, we occupy our time with dominoes, group potluck meals, and camaraderie. Who knows, the pool might be open if the weather is good.

*Woof,  
Peter (and my dog, Mook)*

*[Peter.Mook@yahoo.com](mailto:Peter.Mook@yahoo.com)  
is the new email address.*



Texas Conference of Clubs invites you to

# LoneStar18



## A Gathering

May 26-29, 2006

Join us at the **Memorial Day Weekend** run on Buzzards Peak at the TCC Landsite. **TCC Member club members pay the discounted fee of \$75.** All others pay \$90. Included are all meals, drinks, campsite, entertainment, games, and camaraderie. For an application go to:

**[TexasConferenceOfClubs.com](http://TexasConferenceOfClubs.com)**



# March

[www.HeartOfTexasBears.org](http://www.HeartOfTexasBears.org)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			<b>1</b>	<b>2 LUEY 33</b>	<b>3 LUEY 33</b>	<b>4 LUEY 33</b> <b>10a: Bears Day Out Breakfast</b> Trudy's North Star, 8820 Burnet Road, Austin, 78757 (512) 454-1474 Hamilton Pool
<b>5 LUEY 33</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> <b>7p: Bear Coffee</b> Halcyon 218 West 4 <sup>th</sup> St. Austin, TX 78701 (512) 472-9637	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>12</b> <b>4-8p: Bear Bust</b> The Chain Drive 504 Willow Street Austin, TX 78701 (512) 480-9017	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17 FUCR 2006</b>	<b>18 FUCR 2006</b> <b>10a: Bear Breakfast</b> Austin Diner 5408 Burnet Road Austin, TX, 78756 (512) 467-9552 <b>7p: Bear Game Night</b>
<b>19 FUCR 2006</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23 TBRU 11</b>	<b>24 TBRU 11</b> TCC Activity Weekend	<b>25 TBRU 11</b> TCC Activity Weekend
<b>26 TBRU 11</b> TCC Activity Weekend	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> <b>7p: Bears Night Out</b> MoonShine Patio Bar & Grill 303 Red River Austin, TX, 78701 (512) 236-9599	<b>31</b>	

**2006**