



# Bear Briefs

The Newsletter of the Heart Of Texas Bears

P.O. Box 684391, Austin TX 78768-4391

e-mail: [INFO@HEARTOFTEXASBEARS.ORG](mailto:INFO@HEARTOFTEXASBEARS.ORG)

web: [WWW.HEARTOFTEXASBEARS.ORG](http://WWW.HEARTOFTEXASBEARS.ORG)

FEBRUARY 2007

## From the President's Desk



Over the years I have told many stories about my family, mainly my mother. She was something else. I know now she was manic and I accepted the fact that I would never be able to "fix" her. We loved each other very much but we did not like each other. I was too wild and careless, I was lazy and did not listen or bow to her every whim. Trust me, I never thought it was important to paint a fence at seven on a Sunday morning because she had sat up all night obsessing about it. As I got older and out on my own I realized raising her children, cleaning her house, paying her bills and being blind sided by her manic ups and downs prepared me for the real world.

I have worked sixteen hour days and I would make lists of things that I had to have. I thought that if I played the game just right everything would be perfect and inside my own little world it was. I had all these rules and regulations, and one day I woke up and realized I was my mothers creation.

I started to slowly change and to this day if I get really busy on a project and catch myself obsessively counting, I make myself stop and meditate, I call it grounding and centering myself. And when I find myself becoming incredibly sad, I think back to a woman that I would watch for days on end smoking countless cigarettes, sleeping on the sofa with a television on twenty four hours a day, surviving on cheese sandwiches, potato chips and Pepsi's. Of course self medicated with enough Valium to bring down a Bull Elephant, I start moving and I

figure out what is depressing me and I work it out.

Over the years I think I have struck a good balance within myself and I think I have a good sense of what is important and what I can do without. Mostly I try to stay consistent in my behavior because this is what I admire most in others.

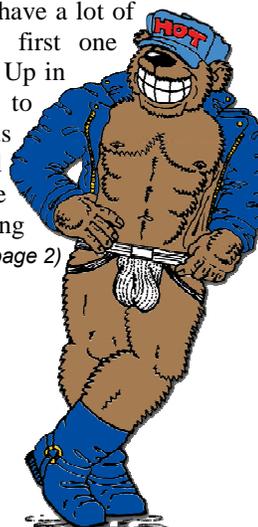
I try to be a good friend and like everyone else I will cram my advice down your throat, but when this fails, I will offer up a prayer to the universe, put you in white light and hope with all of my heart you figure it out. A really good New Age friend told me once that you do not have to take on another person's pain, all that is required is for you to acknowledge their hurt. I still think it is very hard not to be able to "fix" someone and I really hate when I get to a point I want to beat someone and scream "WAKE UP". I try to keep in mind that there are reasons behind it all.

When all else fails, seek profession help. A good therapist or doctor can help when your friends can not. There is no shame in doing this. I would much rather hear "I'm in therapy" then "These illegal drugs and alcohol seem to be doing the trick". Yeah buddy!

All in all, I want what is best for my friends.

Now, Club wise we have a lot of things coming up. The first one being Texas Bear Round Up in Dallas. We have agreed to one of our world famous cocktail parties, pool side, and I would like everyone that is planning

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## February Birthday Bears

Ruben Castilla.....2/1	Haydon Shrum .....2/15
Jerry Lynn Crain.....2/3	David Bieniek .....2/17
Steven Cronin.....2/5	John Cowart.....2/23
Chris Daniels .....2/5	Tim Ryan.....2/23
Thomas Parker.....2/11	Chris Hernandez .....2/29
Kevin Knecht.....2/14	

## HOT Bears Patches Now Available

Due to the diligent and hard work of one of our members, Kelly Stephens — Mr. H.O.T. Cub 2007-2008, we now have large Heart of Texas Bears patches available! Kelly did all the legwork for the Club, and found a local supplier who would create stitched patches for us. Good job Kelly! And thanks for all the hard work.

The patch design is our round logo, they are about 9" in diameter, have over 60,000 stitches in white, grey and black thread, and are suitable for stitching onto the back of your leather bar vest or other jacket or clothing. We have already had members express interest in this limited run of patches.

Initially, we will have 10 patches available, and about half of them are already spoken for by members. The HOT Bears have absorbed the set-up fee, and are selling these patches to our members for actual cost - only \$55.00. That's an amazing price, considering that Kelly found estimates in excess of \$200 per patch while searching for a vendor. If you are interested in owning one of these patches, please contact Jack Landers at [VP@HeartOfTexasBears.org](mailto:VP@HeartOfTexasBears.org) to arrange for delivery and payment. You can also call Jack — his phone number is in the Members Only Roster provided this month with your *Bear Briefs*. Get your patch now!

## From the President's Desk

(Continued from page 1)

on going to TBRU to let me know. This year is a prison theme and I thought we could tag our favorite bears with a sticker "I am a HOT Bear Prison Bitch" or something along those lines. The possibilities are endless! So keep an eye out for black and white stripped swim suits.

I also went up to the TCC landsite for the winter meeting and I was elected for another year on Land Management along with our Buzzards' Peak liaison Peter Reid. Jim Newsome is the new vice chairman and he has already started work on Lonestar

Nineteen, *Cruisin' The Woods*, May 25 – 28, 2007. Make plans on coming to this Run, it's going to be one not to miss. Also keep the Hairy Potters in mind when it is time to divide those plants. Any help with our garden at Buzzards' Peak will be greatly appreciated.

We have the HOT Bears Anniversary coming up in April and would like to introduce a new Club shirt, so you creative types start creating! More information will follow.

Hugs,  
Ed Burlison

## Upcoming Events

### Saturday, February 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!

### Thursday, February 8

Coffee With Da' Bears! Join your Bear Brothers for some friendship, fun, and caffeine. This month we're having Bear Coffee on a Thursday. Join us at **Genuine Joe's** on Anderson Lane (2001 West Anderson Lane, Austin, 78759 512-220-1576). See you there at 7pm.

### Sunday, February 11

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

### Monday, February 12

Rainbow Rollerskating A monthly rollerskating event for the Austin gay and lesbian community. Held at Skate World, 9514 Anderson Mill Road, Austin, 78729 (512) 258-8886. You can rent skates or bring your own. Additional donations that night go to charity. Visit [main.org/rainbowskate](http://main.org/rainbowskate) for details.

### Friday — Sunday, February 16 – 18

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.

### Saturday, February 17

2nd Bear Breakfast at 10am at **Austin Diner**, 5408 Burnet Road, Austin 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, February 17

**Bear Movie & Game Night!** Randy and Steve are combining two fun Bear events into one. Join us at their clubhouse for a Mardi Gras themed evening of Bear Fun. Steve and Randy will provide some tasty gumbo. It's a BYOB and pot-luck, so bring some things along for yourself and your brother bears. Their clubhouse has a media room for the movie and a separate game room, which includes a pool table, shuffleboard, and tables for other games, so bring some along. The fun starts at 7pm. See your Member's Only Calendar for directions.



### Thursday, February 22

Bears Night Out dinner is down south this month. It's pizza time! We're going to **Austin Pizza Garden** for dinner, starting at 7pm (*Bear Time!*). It's down near Oak Hill. The address is 6266 W Highway 290, Austin, 78735, which is right where the freeway ends in Oak Hill. Hope to see you there!

### Thursday — Sunday, February 22-25

LUEY Weekend in Houston. This is the 34th year that the Houston Council of Clubs has been putting on Let Us Entertain You Weekend. It's the weekend after Mardi Gras, for those who just don't want to stop having fun. The weekend events are **free** to folks from out of town! Visit [www.LUEYWeekend.com](http://www.LUEYWeekend.com) for details and registration info.

### Sunday, February 25

**HOT Bear Fur Frenzy.** Join us from **4pm — 8pm** at **The Cockpit Club** (2nd and San Jacinto). We'll be serving 50¢ beer on the back patio with plenty of Bear Brotherhood.

### Saturday, March 3

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

## The View from Buzzards' Peak



### Hey, men!

The Heart of Texas Bears is a member of The Texas Conference of Clubs (TCC). One of the benefits of HOT Bear membership is access to TCC facilities. I am asked all the time "What is TCC and why should I care?" So, here is an annual refresher on TCC, published here for new members (we had 40 last year) and frequently asked questions.

#### What is TCC?

The Texas Conference of Clubs, Inc. owns and operates a private 30-plus acre campground outside of Cameron, Texas. The Conference is composed of member clubs, independent members and commercial organizations. TCC has member clubs in Austin, Corpus Christi, Dallas, Fort Worth, Houston, and San Antonio, as well as other cities in and bordering the state of Texas.

Chartered in 1975, the Texas Conference of Clubs long felt there should be a facility available for the men and women of the LGBT community to use as a campground, run site, or for retreats.

In August of 1983, the Conference purchased a tract of land in Milam County, Texas to be used by the member clubs and others as a place for camping, holding runs or retreats, or just enjoying the great outdoors. This piece of land became known as "Buzzards' Peak" or "TCC Landsite". The site is made up of tree-covered hills of cedar, hickory, gum, elm and oaks, with ravines, rocks, grassy areas and small wild animals. TCC also offers the use of the land site to interested community groups for their recreational functions.

In addition to member club runs, there are two annual events held for the AIDS community in Texas. Called "PWA Camp-outs" they usually draw 100-200 people from around the state. Attendance is free, but a donation of \$25 per person is always welcome to help offset costs. TCC donates the use of the land for these runs and there are many TCC volunteers that help out.

#### Who works there? How is it possible?

TCC is made possible and held together by volunteers, and financed by donations and fees collected at the various activities throughout the year as well as fundraisers. To my knowledge, this is the only campground of its kind in the USA- and perhaps the world- in that the land is not owned by anyone, funds are all done by donation, all work is done by volunteers, and no profit is being created. With 15 clubs and their members, it is incredible to me that this place has been in conservative Texas since 1983! and not dissolved into complete chaos. Very few gay social clubs, let alone an organization made up of such clubs, stay around that long!

#### Can I plug in my CPAP?

Since 1983 many improvements have been made to the land site. Toilets, showers, kitchen, and a pole barn provide excellent facilities for a weekend run. Many campsites sites have electricity and there are several sites that can accommodate smaller campers and electrical 210 hook-ups (but not water hook-ups). There is also the Bunkhouse that can accommodate up to 12 people. The Bunkhouse is a gutted doublewide trailer that has air conditioning and heat. It is dry and offers VERY modest accommodations. There is also the TCC Trailer that can be used on a first come first serve basis.

#### I want to go camping at TCC. How much does it cost?

A fee of \$7 for a weekend enables you to use all facilities when other runs are not happening at the landsite. There are also small fees for electricity (\$10 per weekend) as well as using the bunkhouse (\$15 per weekend) or TCC Trailer (\$25 per weekend). All fees are payable by check or cash at the landsite or can be mailed to the Treasurer of TCC after your stay.

#### What's an 'Activity Weekend'. How much work is there to do?

Once a month, there are Activity Weekends. Free to all who attend, these days are set-aside for membership to do regular maintenance on the land and buildings. It is also a time for folks to come together and enjoy a relaxed weekend of unstructured time in the woods. Activity Weekends

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are a great introduction to the landsite. Maintenance ranges from felling trees to helping out with dinner. If it is your first time there, you will not be expected to work unless you want too. So, be sure to join in the Saturday pot-luck or participate in a game of dominoes with others. The weekends are social as well as working weekends.

#### What's the web site?

Go to [TexasConferenceOfClubs.com](http://TexasConferenceOfClubs.com) for a full calendar and additional information about the landsite. There is also an active yahoo group: "texasconferenceofclubs". If you want directions to the landsite, please email me and I will send them to you

#### "Back to the Woods" is held at TCC

The date for our annual camp-out is set for October 12-14. If you want to be involved with the show, meals, games or planning, let me know. We are in the early planning stages to insure a good weekend for everyone. The website is expected to go up soon. On there will be an application and the ability to sign up using a credit card. We expect to sell out again this year. If we hit our maximum of 150 before the weekend, we will not be accepting anyone at the gate. I urge you to set aside the date! We have a really good time. Remember: food, entertainment, drinks and bear camaraderie are all included.

The run benefits more than just the HOT Bear attendees. In addition to interacting with other clubs around the country, it is our biggest fundraiser. The money collected enable us to keep membership costs down, to give generously to local Austin charities, and provide activities for our membership. The UnRun, Anniversary Party, Pool Parties, are all subsidized by BTW. Last years there were over 40 HOT Bears who attended Back to the Woods and over 110 from other clubs. I hope we can have even more HOT Bears this year. Even if you do not like camping, the landsite has many comforts that will make it easy for you. If you sign up early, you can stay in the bunkhouse. We will be setting aside a certain amount of spaces for our members- but you have to sign up early. Stay tuned for more information in the coming months.

#### Last Month at TCC

January TCC elections were in January. Elected were: Jim Newsome, Vice Chairman; Hal Pryor, Treasurer; Dale Arnt, Facilities Coordinator; Ed Burleson & Brian Epperson, and John Sepjeck for Land Management. The HOT Bears continue to stay involved at TCC and welcome anyone to join us. Our groundwater well was acting up last year. So, we are close to finishing installation of a water line from the rural water system insuring us water for years to come. Approval for two of three documents presented by Land Management was given. One was for "Land Use Policies" outlining the rules for runs and general use of the property by clubs and their guests. The other was "Permanent Site Policy" which outlined the rules and expectations for having a long term site on the property. I have copies of these policies if anyone would like to read them. The third document "Land Use Agreement," which was a contract for long term site holders, was rejected by a voted of 7 to 7. Approval was given to install WiFi. The initial costs is being carried by donations raised at the meeting. A detailed presentation of a plan for an additional bathroom was met with applause. All of the costs associated with it are being handled by donations. Our club donated the materials for a kiosk to collect day fees and post rules for using the landsite. Eric Miller and I are almost finished building it. It will be ready for the new season.

#### February Camping

February marks the beginning of camping weather. The Activity weekend for this Month is February 16-18th. Remember: Activity Weekends are free to any HOT Bear member. Bring your camping gear and a dish for the potluck dinner on Saturday night. With the expected warmer weather, now is the time Activity weekends are a good time to escape to the landsite. Kick back with a book, go for a hike, enjoy a game of dominoes, or watch the stars. Bring a friend and introduce them to one of the privileges of HOT Bear membership.

As always, you can email me if you want directions to the site. Once you go, I am sure you will return.

Peace,

-Peter ( [flyfsh\\_peter@yahoo.com](mailto:flyfsh_peter@yahoo.com) or [bear411.com/flyfshbear](mailto:bear411.com/flyfshbear) )

# February

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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> <b>10a: Bears Day Out Breakfast</b> Trudy's North Star, 8820 Burnet Road, Austin, TX, 78757 (512) 454-1474
<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> <b>7:30p: HOT Board Meeting – North</b>	<b>8</b> <b>7p: Bear Coffee</b> Genuine Joe 2001 W. Anderson Ln. Austin, TX 78757 (512) 220-1576	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>11</b> <b>4-8p: Bear Bust</b> The Chain Drive 504 Willow Street Austin, TX 78701 (512) 480-9017	<b>12</b> <b>8p-11p: Rainbow Skate</b> Skate World Austin 9514 Anderson Mill Rd. Austin, TX 78729 (512) 258-8886 (Rink Info)	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> Valentines Day	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> <b>TCC Activity Weekend</b>	<b>17</b> <b>TCC Activity Weekend</b> <b>10a: 2nd Breakfast</b> Austin Diner 5408 Burnet Road Austin, TX, 78756 (512) 467-9552 <b>7p: Movie &amp; Game Night at Steve and Randy's Clubhouse</b>
<b>18</b> <b>TCC Activity Weekend</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22 LUEY 34</b> <b>7p: Bears Night Out</b> Austin Pizza Garden 6266 W. Highway 290 Austin, TX, 78735 (512) 891-9980	<b>23 LUEY 34</b>	<b>24 LUEY 34</b>
<b>25 LUEY 34</b> <b>4p-8p: Fur Frenzy</b> The Cockpit 113 San Jacinto Austin, TX, 78701 (512) 457-8010	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>View the latest calendar information for this month and future months on the HOT Bears web site</b>		

2007