



Bear Briefs

The Newsletter of the Heart Of Texas Bears

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NOVEMBER 2008

From the President's Den



Three Things I am thankful for this Thanksgiving:

I will be traveling to Lubbock and then to New Mexico to be with a very old friend of mine from art school. Frank and I were roommates for two years way back in the early 80's. He was the

guy who introduced me to men who were secure with themselves as gay people, and showed me, a naïve kid from the Midwest, that gay folks are just as varied as non-gay folks. In those days, there were no gay role models. So, knowing some good men was a major step for my own coming out at age of nineteen. After school, I lost touch with him or a while. It was my move to Texas 5 years ago and the Internet that allowed me to do a search for him. I found him in Lubbock, teaching at Texas Tech. We have been in touch ever since. Over the last 20 years, I have lost so many friends. I am thankful that he is still here on this earth and we have renewed our friendship.

Old friends are precious. Here in Texas, I have made friends that will last a long time. Many of them I met through the Heart Of Texas Bears. As a group, we are all different. I cannot say that I know every member, nor can I say that all members know me. If I did, it would be arrogant. What I can say is that I respect each member to have their own opinion and voice. I do try to hear that voice. We all make our own way in this world- and giving each person the space to figure it out is the best thing anyone can do. I cannot say that I am successful 100% of the time, but I can say

that I try to be. I am thankful to be your president and for the relationships I have made through this club.

I met Eric at a HOT Bear Beer Bust. He was one of those shy-type guys who attend the beer bust for the first time to check out the club- and to see that gay men are just regular folks. I had been through a recent break-up and was not interested in meeting anyone for a serious relationship. However, friends were just what I was looking for (or so I thought). Now, 3+ years later, we moved in together to a great place in North Central Austin. I am thankful for the time we have been together and for times yet to come.

I wish you all a good Thanksgiving and hope you are able to find the good things in people. Remember: Misery is boring. Joy is a much better high.

Woof!

Peter Reid — president@heartoftexasbears.org

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Quarterly Meeting Held

The quarterly meeting was recently held at the **Carver Library** near downtown Austin. There was a good turn-out, and many items of importance were discussed including a *Back To The Woods* report, a report on the medical shed at the TCC landsite (thanks Jacob!!!), upcoming events for the next quarter, as well as reports from each of the officers.

The meeting was immediately followed by **Beer Bust** at the **Chain Drive**. Remember, it's YOUR club and YOUR input is always welcome! Feel free to contact us at the emails listed on

the website, or attend any of the monthly or quarterly meetings listed on the calendar.

A wealth of GREAT ideas are out there and we look forward to hearing yours.

Woof's and Grrr's

Kelly Stephens —

vp@heartoftexasbears.org



Upcoming Events

Saturday, November 1

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, November 6

HOT Bears Planning Meeting. Join the officers for their monthly board meeting at 7:15pm. This time, it will be at the home of Peter Reid, your president. See the HOT Bear Happenings email for the address. Your input will help make the Club better!

Friday, November 7

Bears on Ice! Join your fellow "Figure Skating" Bears (you know who you are) as we skate on down to *Chaparral Ice Rink* at North Cross Mall. Join us at **7pm** sharp for lots of Bear Brotherhood as we skate for the gold! [2525 Anderson Lane, Austin, TX, 78757 (512)252-8500 ext 9] Cost is \$10 for admission and skate rental. If we get a group of 10 or more...it's only \$8.

Sunday, November 9

Monthly Bear Beer Bust at the *Chain Drive* 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. [504 Willow Street, Austin, 78701, (512) 480-9017]

Wednesday, November 12

Coffee With Da' Bears! Join your Bear Brothers for some friendship, fun, and caffeine (Note: caffeine optional). This month we are heading to **Ruta Maya's**. They offer some great coffee choices and some fabulous local eats! See you there at **7pm**. [Ruta Maya's - 3601 South Congress Avenue Suite D-200, 78704, (512) 707-9637]

Friday, November 14

Guerilla Queer Bar from 6pm to 9pm. See SmokingBanana.com for details.

Saturday, November 15

2nd Bear Breakfast at **10am** at *The Bakehouse Restaurant & Bar* (austin.bakehouse.com). Join us for some great breakfast cooking and lots of Bear

Brotherhood! [5404 Manchaca Road, Austin, 78745 (512) 443-5167]

Saturday, November 15

Bear Movie Night! Peter and Eric have a new home, and have graciously opened it up for a Movie Night. It's pot luck, so bring some snacks ... and a comfy chair. Show up around **7pm**. The movie starts at 8pm. For directions, be sure to consult your HOT Bear Happenings for address and directions.

Thursday, November 20

Bears Night Out. Join us for a Mexican feast on the south side at *La Posada Mexican Restaurant*. Join us there for dinner at **7pm**. [6800 Westgate Blvd. Suite 143, 78745, (512) 444-2631]

Friday — Sunday, November 28 — 30 Activity Weekend at the TCC Landsite. Camp out and help work on some improvements for the Landsite.

Saturday, December 6

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

Need some activity in your life???

At the quarterly meeting, an idea was introduced (Thanks Manny and Robert) to schedule some events that were geared more to the active side of life. So we are looking for ideas that we could do... such as walking/biking the many hike-and-bike trails that Austin is so fortunate to have, bowling nights, golf outings,

kayaking, etc. If you have any ideas that you like to do, and feel like a group of bears would like to do too, please let any of the officers know.

Wooof's and Grrrr's
Kelly Stephens — vp@heartoftexasbears.org

Pumpkin Carving Results

It was a great afternoon for carving pumpkins. The weather was superb, the pumpkins were creative and the company was even better. The HOT Bears met at the home of Bud McMullen for our annual Pumpkin Carving contest October 26th. Bud made sure we all had plenty of space (and drop cloths), refreshments, and tasty snacks. Congratulations go out to Bill Bohrer for winning First Prize and tickets to the Theater! Be sure to ask him

where he got his inspiration... The HOT Bears want to say a great big **THANKS BUD!** for hosting this year's event, and even providing the prize. We are very fortunate to have so many members who are willing to open up their homes and make the Bears feel at home.

— Kelly Stephens



“Back 2 the Woods 4,”
October 10 - 12



THE HEART OF TEXAS BEARS

November 2008 HOT Bears Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
26 TCC Activity Weekend 2pm» Pumpkin Carving Contest	27	28 ☉	29	30 7pm» Bears Night Out	31 Bound By Desire	01 Bound By Desire 10am» Bears Day Out Breakfast
02 Daylight Savings Time ends Bound By Desire	03	04 Election Day	05 ☾	06 7:15pm» HOT Bear Planning Meeting	07 7pm» Bears On ICE!!!!	08
09 4pm» Bear Beer Bust	10	11	12 7pm» Bear Coffee	13 ☀	14 6pm» Guerilla Queer Bar	15 10am» 2nd Breakfast 7pm» Bear Movie Night
16	17	18	19	20 ☾ 7pm» Bears Night Out	21	22
23	24	25	26	27 ☉ Thanksgiving	28 TCC Activity Weekend	29 TCC Activity Weekend
30 TCC Activity Weekend	01	02 7:15pm» HOT Bear Planning Meeting	03	04	05 ☾	06 10am» Bears Day Out Breakfast

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