



**HOT BEARS QUARTERLY  
BUSINESS MEETING  
SUNDAY, JANUARY 11<sup>TH</sup>  
FROM 1PM TO 3PM AT  
AIDS SERVICES OF AUSTIN  
7215 CAMERON ROAD**

# Bear Briefs

The Newsletter of the Heart Of Texas Bears

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JANUARY 2004

## From The President's Desk

First and foremost, Happy (safe and healthy) New Year to all our members. I too wanted to take a moment to thank Ed and Marcus for hosting another spectacular holiday event. Unfortunately, I was suffering from whatever everyone else seems to have been enduring and made it home early that evening. From the pictures I saw, it looked like everyone enjoyed themselves. By the way, I have not had to use my new Voodoo doll.

This message for some reason has been my hardest to construct. I am not certain why but recently I have received some suggestions on what might make the message more personal. And, while I share personal things with my close friends confiding "so to speak" here is a bit daunting.

Some of you may know that I hopped in the truck and drove to Florida for Christmas. I did this for many reasons. Visiting family there was not first on the list. Getting away was. I had hoped for sunny warm weather to enjoy while exploring secluded beaches. Recent setbacks on the professional front and resulting frustration had me heading east on I-10 until I could make a right turn on I-75. The unusual 30-degree weather in the evening and highs in the lower 70's kept me from searching out all of the hidden places along

Central Florida's Gulf Coast. I did find a few private spots and met some nice guys in the process.

With my deadline approaching and knowing I would need to get this message completed I began to think about what I might say. Of course there was the New Year and lists or resolutions to speak of. I thought too, of the things the board and I have discussed as ways of getting more members on board and to remain involved. Beefing out the Bear Briefs was at the top of the list. You will see some changes in this copy. We definitely want to hear more from the membership by way of stories of travels or other ideas for future events. But this will all unfold over the next month or so. Of course you can join in on the discussions at our quarterly meeting this month.

As I sat down to write this is what came to mind. After leaving Austin for the warmer shores of Florida's Gulf Coast my plans changed from stopping for a night in New Orleans, LA. and another in Pensacola, FL. Instead, I drove the 1300+ miles with a couple of catnaps along the way. I left on a Friday afternoon and was at my destination of Port Charlotte, FL. on Saturday morning. Of course, local shoppers were at frenzy and I wound up in the whirlpool of getting last minute gifts for my Sister and

Mom. Traffic, short tempers and waiting lines in restaurants filled a good portion of my days. On the few occasions it was warm enough to head to the beach it took much longer than usual. After Christmas Eve dinner with my sister's in-laws and Christmas Dinner with family and old family friends, I headed back to Austin leaving Friday morning. The tank filled and a few cups of coffee in me, I began my journey home. Again, I contemplated stops along the way. But positioned with everyone else on the road that day I set my cruise control to 85 mph and stopped for gas and a sandwich from time to time. 16.39 hours after leaving Port Charlotte I was pulling in my garage. Not too bad, I thought. A new personal best for me. But... What was my hurry? An empty house? A couple of days at home before heading back to the office? Why were we all traveling at great speeds? Were we anxious to get where we were headed or did we have to hurry because we did not have enough time? I really began to think it was more about not having enough perceived time. How long could it take to stop and enjoy a few things along the way? Not to be driven by the next destination. Clearly at the top of my list for the coming year is to find a way to enjoy where I am and what I am doing, not fixated on the

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next stop. Bet I will find more peace of mind and enjoyment in some of the simpler things in life. See you in the New Year!

Tom Bolt, President

## Upcoming Events — Mark Your Calendar

### Saturday, January 3

Bears Day Out breakfast at 10am. This month we are again having breakfast at the **Luby's** at 8176 North MoPac Expressway, 78759 (MoPac at Steck Ave).

### Sunday, January 11

Heart of Texas Bears **Quarterly Meeting** will be from 1:00p to 3:00p at AIDS Services of Austin, 7215 Cameron Road. The gates will be open at 12:30p.

We would like to see as many members as possible so that the board can consider and act on ideas the general membership may be interested in pursuing in the coming year. Please join us. The agenda will be posted in the upcoming events of that week.

### Sunday, January 11

Monthly Bear Beer Bust at the Chain Drive (504 Willow Drive) from 4pm — 8pm. Join the Bears at our

home bar for \$.50 draft beer. We need at least two volunteers to help out during a couple of shifts.

### Saturday, January 17

Bear Game Night at Scott and John's house. Bring some food and drink to share and, of course, a game to play!

### Thursday, January 29

Bears Night Out dinner will be up north this month. We'll try something different

for the New Year. This month BNO will be at Alborz Persian Cuisine, 3300 West Anderson Lane, 78757. It's in the shopping center between MoPac and Shoal Creek on the north side of Anderson Lane. This is the same shopping center that Satay is in. Join us for some good Persian food.

### Saturday, February 7

Bears Day Out breakfast at 10am at Luby's.

## Bear Quarterly Business Meeting

The next quarterly meeting is set of Sunday, January 11<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 PM at the AIDS Services of Austin (ASA) meeting space. The address of ASA is 7215 Cameron Road, Austin, TX, 78752.

As always, the board encourages the HOT Bears

members to attend and share ideas — contribute! Remember we, the membership, are responsible individually and collectively to make this club better. Use this meeting, the Bear Briefs, or simply contact the officers to voice your concerns and share your thoughts.

## January Birthday Bears

Raymond Arsenault.... 1/28	Glenn Scott..... 1/14
Tim Bratcher..... 1/15	Christopher Teel..... 1/15
Robert Lightner..... 1/23	Johnny Ward..... 1/29
Steve Rison..... 1/2	Charles Whittenberg .. 1/14
Gary Rogers..... 1/23	

## New Club Members

Steve Cronin  
Russell Schneider

Troy New  
Steve Virostko

## From the Vice President

A new feature of the Bear Briefs is "Bear Growl" — a space to voice your opinions, ideas, philosophies, etc. — basically an open forum to reflect, irritate, commiserate, or simply to share thoughts. It is the feeling of The Heart of Texas Bears board that the Bear Briefs needs an infusion of ideas and energy which can begin to happen with the candid, genuine reflections of our own membership which represent a wide range of bear-men and bear ideas. We would like to encourage all the

members to consider sharing with us all by submitting a short reflection or reasonable discord that gives us all food for thought — and you know how bears like to chew on things. If you have something to contribute, please e-mail your contribution to [BearBriefs@HeartOfTexasBears.org](mailto: BearBriefs@HeartOfTexasBears.org) or contact a board member with your ruminations.

*Steve Rison,*  
Vice President



## Room for Rent

Close to Dell, Samsung and all northeast companies, Short commute to IH-35 via 290 or Parmer Lane. Nice carpeted room w/walk in closet in recently completed 4-bedroom home. Semi private bath, two living areas w/ possible garage space for small

car. Nonsmoker. No pets. \$350.00/month utilities paid, incl. basic cable. Great for single male working in Austin traveling home on weekends or others seeking a quiet environment. Please leave a message for Tom at **512-278-0806**.



More photos available at:  
[www.LandersHall.com/2003-HolidayParty](http://www.LandersHall.com/2003-HolidayParty)



**Marcus and Ed's Holiday Party for the Bears**



Photos © 2003, Michael J. Hall

## Bear Growl — EdBear has a confession to make...

*“Bear Growl” is a new column in the Bear Briefs where any member can express their views, thoughts, and opinions. This month EdBear has some things to share...*

The time has come and I have nothing to lose. The secret is out. I confess to being an “A List” Bear. It started simply enough. I went to a Bears Day Out and had breakfast. Like most cults, it revolves around food. I was hooked. The next thing I knew, I was attending general membership meetings and throwing caution to the wind! I went to a Sunday Bear Bust at the Chain Drive. God help me, I was meeting strangers and they were telling me their names and inviting me to pool parties, restaurants, and movies. After the brainwashing and required repeat rinse, I simply can not go back to my former ways! These Bears are everywhere. They call my house and send me e-mail... and I like it! Now I am classed like a drivers permit. Will it never end? I hope to hell not!

I wrote this column because I love our Club and I have some strong opinions about lots of things... well, everything, actually. I will try to stick to issues concerning the urban Bear and lay to rest certain rumors.

There is no “A List”. There is a group, within our Club, that seems to always

show up, and after a while you get used to them. And the next thing you know, they are some of your best friends. Our Club is about networking and it is about being social. I hope that most of you have found friends and people of like minds. I hope that this Club helps you grow as a person.

Over the years, I have met a few people that I have no use for. The perpetual victim that is always whining about the Bears being a sex club. The same person will make statements that generalize the Bears and are very vocal about what they don’t like. However, instead of working with the group, they work against it. Being the big old ball of grief that they are, they will read this and make an issue of it. Like I care. Come and get me. I have learned that these broken records do nothing but lie when confronted and have one hundred and one excuses for their behavior. Well, I have one reason for my behavior — I am over the drama these jerks generate. Maybe we should all just haul off and punch them right in the puss. I know in Virginia it is called simple assault and is, or was, a thirty five dollar fine.

Then there is the person who whines “What do I get for my twenty five dollar membership fee?”. Well, I worked it out once, and after your individual twenty five dollar fee has been apportioned for club expenses

(webspace, postage, door prizes, event supplies, etc), each member really owes the club a buck seventy-five. And just think for a minute about how much work goes into getting a home ready for movie night, a Halloween party, a game night or any Bear event. Call up the Party Barn, reserve a keg, go pick it up, tap it... and oh damn, gotta get plastic cups, plates and decorations for the event — the many details that go into making an event actually occur. Then ask the age old question, “What do I get...”. And then this same person will roll his eyes and ask for a bottle of Perrier as if the Club has this huge warehouse of stocked goods that cater to each members personal requirements. To these people I say “You just don’t get it”. Write the newsletter, format a roster for distribution, put on a contest, organize a membership meeting. You will soon realize that things don’t just happen — there’s a lot of hard work.

“So why bother?” you might ask. For love of community. And, I would like to think, because each of us can make a difference in the quality of life of his fellow man. We need to get out of the house and realize the world does not revolve around just our fuzzy butts. To make friends, find a mate, and to live, Live, LIVE! We need to give back just a fraction of

what we all take for granted.

For what it is worth, I have only run into two people that were actually petty enough to vocalize what I have just ranted about. The squeaky wheel gets the most grease — **NOT!** It is the Bears who step forward with ideas on how to make the Club work better for us all, the Bears who open their homes and donate time and energy to Club — they are the Bears who I can introduce as my friends. They are the most important assets our Club has. They are the people that are most important. They are the people that will make the Club grow and be what it is supposed to be — a way to make friends and meet like minded individuals — nothing more, nothing less.

To the people outside of the Club that feel a need to bad mouth the Bears and make feeble attempts to do harm to the Club — I wish you the best. I hope life becomes so wonderful for you that it washes away all the hatefulness you generate so that one day you “get it”. Until then, stay out of my way.

Ed Burseson,  
Member,  
Heart of Texas Bears

*If you would like to express your views / opinions in this “Bear Growl” space, please send your article to [BearBriefs@HeartOfTexasBears.org](mailto: BearBriefs@HeartOfTexasBears.org).*



**Austin  
Pride Fest  
June 2003**

**Bears Night  
Out at  
Hill’s Cafe  
February  
2003**



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# January

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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p><b>Quarterly Membership Meeting: at AIDS Services Austin (ASA) - 7215 Cameron Road. Membership meeting starts at 1pm. Then its Bear Bust at Chain Drive at 4pm.</b></p>				<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> <b>10a:</b> Bears Day Out Breakfast (Lubys, 8176 N. MoPac Expy)
<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>11</b> <b>1p: Quarterly Membership Meeting at ASA</b> <b>4-8p: Bear Bust (Chain Drive, 504 Willow Street)</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> <b>7p: Bear Game Night at Scott and John's Home</b>
<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> <b>7p: Bears Night Out at Alborz Persian Cuisine, 3300 West Anderson Lane</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>
<p>View the latest calendar information for this month and future months at the online calendar on the HOT Bears web site @ <a href="http://www.HeartOfTexasBears.org">www.HeartOfTexasBears.org</a></p>				<p><b>Wanted:</b> A webmaster for the Heart of Texas Bears web site. Are you interested in being creative and helping the Bears have a great web site? If so, please contact <a href="mailto:webmaster@HeartOfTexasBears.org">webmaster@HeartOfTexasBears.org</a></p>		

**2004**