



Bear Briefs

The Newsletter of the Heart Of Texas Bears

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

e-mail: INFO@HEARTOFTEXASBEARS.ORG

web: WWW.HEARTOFTEXASBEARS.ORG

MAY 2006

From the Desk of the President



The pool has been shocked, furniture moved back into it's rightful place and in cleaning up I thought a lot about writing this. All in all I think it was a very successful 8th anniversary party.

We have tried several venues in the past and I believe that next year we will work on getting a private room in a restaurant or a banquet room in a hotel. Getting something like this together is hard work and a small group doesn't seem to appreciate it. You RSVP and then don't show up or you completely ignore the invitation. One member decided to RSVP after the cut off date and then decided to bring a group; what the hell is up with that? An invitation extended to you is for you and **one** guest. Next time I will give everyone an application and they can become members on the spot or they can leave.

The same thing is happening at other parties the HOT Bears are officially invited to, but with a twist. Former members are showing up, which proves to me that someone is looking at the calendar and the only contribution they are making is their fabulous uninvited presence. I am not talking about a thundering hoard, it's a small group that is just socially retarded. You know the ones, they either have a whinny complaint about how the Club is run or didn't get enough attention as a

child. They will bitch to you but refuse to talk to anyone on the executive board. I guess a solution isn't as fun as generating drama. And since I am on a roll here I want to know about this "clique"?

Like I have said many, many times before, I hope people join the HOT Bears and meet friends with common interest, that you "click" with someone who is reading the first book in a set of three that you have or has traveled to places you've been or want to go. Because sharing, respect and making great memories is what this Club is about.

At some point during the anniversary party I stood back and watched everyone. The positive energy, the laughter and camaraderie was almost overwhelming and at these times I know I am truly blessed. I enjoy my friends. And this is why I enjoy being the president, many thanks to all of you and here is to another eight years of Bear Brotherhood!

By the way, several items were left at our house and after thirty days they become mine. One item was a suitcase packed with one hundred dollar bills, yeah that's it, and a picture of Morgan Fairchild, yeah, that's the ticket. And to reclaim these items you've got to show up to a Beer Bust or some event on this months calendar.

Hugs,
Ed Burlison

Sponsors

The HOT Bears are grateful for the continuing support of the following people and companies. Please support those who support us.

TapeLenders

TapeLenders Video - Outlines-Skivies
1114 West 5th Street (78703)
(512) 472-0844

www.TapeLenders.com
10% discount with HOT Bear membership card (Sale items excluded)

Chain Drive

504 Willow Street (78701)
(512) 480-9017

Cockpit

113 San Jacinto (78701)
(512) 457-8010

Midtowne Spa of Austin

5815 Airport Blvd. (78752)
(512) 302-9696
www.midtowne-spa.com/austin
mtsaustin@austin.rr.com

Phil Nelson

Registered Massage Therapist
(512) 301-3376

Amy Krause

Mortgage Consultant
11506 Boulder Lane (78726)
(512) 219-5858 office
amykrause@austin.rr.com

WoofWax.com

Donnie Anderson
(254) 557-1334

May Birthday Bears

Steve Bailey5/1	Mark Briody 5/13
Raymond J. Kuhar5/1	James Bryant..... 5/17
Jacob Duncan5/3	Leroy Woodward 5/17
Dwane E. Porter5/3	Mark Nash 5/19
Bryan Music5/4	Scott Coleman..... 5/23
Kevin Davis5/8	Daniel Trevino 5/26
Kip A. Wanamaker5/8	Mike Stamets 5/29



Happy HOT Bears at the Anniversary Party ▶

Upcoming Events

Friday – Sunday, May 5 – 7

Beak Trek V hosted by the Trinity River Bears at the TCC Landsite. Enjoy a weekend of fun and relaxation camping at the landsite. This is a smaller run, so it's easy to relax, make friends, and enjoy yourself! Visit TrinityRiverBears.com for details.

Saturday, May 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!

Wednesday, May 10

Bear Coffee. Join some of your Bear friends for coffee at 7pm. We'll be meeting at **Whole Foods Central**, (525 North Lamar, Austin 78703) for coffee and tasty things to munch on. See you at the coffee bar or the covered tables out front.

Sunday, May 14

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.

Friday – Sunday, May 19 – 21

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, May 20

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!

Sunday, May 21

International AIDS Candlelight Memorial from 8pm - 9pm at Republic Square Park. See the article below for details.

Thursday, May 25

Bears Night Out dinner. This month we're going to the new **Hoovers Cooking** up north. They just recently opened and are located at 13376 Research Blvd (183 just south of Anderson Mill Road). Their phone number is 335-0300. They have the same great cooking at the original location does. Join us for dinner at 7pm.

Friday – Monday, May 26 – 29

LoneStar18 — the annual run hosted by the Texas Conference of Clubs at the landsite in Cameron, TX. As Peter has mentioned many times in his article, events at the landsite are relaxing, fun, and rejuvenating. See page 4 in this *Bear Briefs* for details.

Saturday, June 3

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

Saturday, June 3

The 5th annual Austin Pride Parade. The Bears have been in the parade every year, and this one should be the best yet! *Watch your email for details*, but plan to meet down at Riverside and South Congress (the usual parade meeting place — the TxDOT parking lot) around 5pm to help put together this year's creation. Please wear a solid colored (one of the rainbow colors) shirt: a t-shirt, a polo shirt, a Hawaiian shirt, whatever. This year's parade theme is "We Are Family".



AIDS Candlelight Volunteers & Participants Needed

This year's 2006 International AIDS Candlelight Memorial will take place on Sunday, 21 May 2006 from 8pm - 9pm at Republic Square Park. Volunteers are needed for group and individual speakers, singers, poem readers, performing artists, bands, prayer, remembrances, songs, stats, community literature, music, declarations and commitments. This year service will also host a reading from different AIDS, Community Organizations & Individuals of loved ones lost of the past year.

Austin will host its 7th year participation of this event on 21 May 2006, when millions of individuals in more than 4,500 Communities in 93 countries will also participate in the world's largest and oldest annual grassroots HIV/AIDS event. The International AIDS Candlelight Memorial is designed to honor the memory of those lost to HIV/AIDS, show support for those living with HIV/AIDS, raise awareness of HIV/AIDS, and mobilize community involvement in the fight against HIV/AIDS.

The Global Health Council has selected this year's theme for the 23rd International Candlelight Memorial Service as: "Lighting a Path to a Brighter Future." The local Austin service will host speakers, prayer, music, poems, songs, and candles with loved ones with both new and old friends. This memorial service

will honor the memory of those lost to HIV/AIDS, show support for those living with HIV/AIDS, raise more awareness of HIV/AIDS, and help mobilize community involvement in the fight against HIV/AIDS. Since 1983, the pandemic has claimed more than 28 million lives, with about 42 million now living with HIV and AIDS.

Those interested in participating and helping to sponsor and be a part of the 23rd International AIDS Candlelight Memorial Service are asked to please email Eric A. Crabtree @ ozparade@aol.com or last resort call: 512.707.2384 before Monday, April 3rd, 2006. An official Press Release later that week. For more info on the AIDS Candlelight Memorial Service please visit: www.candlelightmemorial.org.

Lastly, Light a Candle online now for those you want to remember: International AIDS Candlelight Memorial - Light a Candle Online!

*Peace, Prayer & Pride,
Eric A. Crabtree
Austin Candlelight Coordinator*

The View from Buzzards' Peak



It is no secret that I have a real love for the campground. What follows is a musing suggested by a recent weekend. Enjoy.

An overnight

I drove up early Saturday morning. Rain had threatened, but I knew it was going to be gone by 10. I stopped along the way at the Best Western Cafe outside of Rockdale to enjoy waffles, a double order of bacon, 2 eggs over easy, 2 large glasses of OJ, and a cup of coffee- juts the thing a bear needs to start off his day. I was really looking forward to an overnight at the Texas Conference of Clubs landsite.

By the time I was done, the sun was out and I put the top down on my old Mustang GT. I had 5 bags of wood chips in the back, along with some food supplies and charcoal. I was meeting my bud Kevin around two o'clock and had some work to do on my small 8 x 8 cabin. It was nicknamed the "Chicken Coop" by my good friend Steve who is convinced that I only date men under 25. The hill it resides on has become known as the "Chicken Ranch" as a result. I have a project going to maintain and improve the area. It is one of the obligations accepted when I was granted the privilege of a permanent campsite over a year ago.

Like Kevin, I enjoy outdoor projects. He was going to help me clear deadwood, rake leaves, work on the paths, and improve a new natural trail down to the compound from the top of the Ranch. The wood chips I got from the Cameron Lumber Yard were going to help us make a stair to ease the climb up the steep hill. On the March Activity Weekend, I had a started constructing a bench out of the natural stone found all over the hill. I also started a common sitting area utilizing a copper fire pit that Tom Bolt had brought out to the place a month before. I had an idea about a new way to light the area that I wanted to try out that evening. I am building the area up and making it more inviting to help encourage more people to camp out up on the Chicken Ranch instead of the place at the bottom of the hill (nicknamed "The Swamp" due to its soggy soil during rains).

After just a few days at the land site, I always return home refreshed, as if I had been on a weeks vacation.

I drove onto the last leg of my trip- the dirt road leading to the land site. I passed the goats, longhorn cattle, Mr. Parker's farmhouse and shed, and finally the vast pastures where Mr. Parker keeps his cows. There was a large herd of them as I took the hairpin turn onto the final straight away. I always like this part of the trip as a sense of relaxation hits me as soon as I see the cows. After driving into the



Irises bloom around the kitchen in April

gate, past the trailers, and down the driveway, through the field and up to the Pole Barn, I unloaded. I put my food in the walk-in cooler, and hauled the bags of wood chips up the hill to the ranch.

I spent the rest of the morning beginning the re-build of the rock wall bench and figuring out how to make better lighting. The previous year, I had installed red railroad lanterns. The light from them was too harsh and got in the way of star gazing. Lights lower to the ground would provide safety and allow better shadows on the trees and forest. After a while, I got a bit tired and snoozed in the hammock.

Kevin arrived on time, got me out of my hammock. He helped me finish the rock wall, paths, and steps. It was all looking really great! We celebrated by taking a long shower. At 6pm, we prepared a dinner of hamburgers, salad, and wine in the kitchen. After that, we climbed the hill to the Ranch and ate ice cream and brownies by the new fire pit. The rocks lights I had made were aglow and cast long shadows across the new paths. Strange noises were coming from the woods and we passed the time by enjoying some pre-embargo cubans I had brought along. Pretty nice for camping! The stars were out, the moon was up and we told stories and continued to enjoy the camaraderie that the land site has become famous for.

During the night, we heard odd noises coming from the field. Grunting noises. We flashed a light outside and saw a glimpse of a furry tail. A little while later, a deer wandered into the firelight-grazing on the grass. Animals in the woods have never bothered me, but there were noises that I had never heard before. The wind in the trees was also up, but the wine and brownies had relaxed me, so I fell asleep listening to the natural symphony around us.

In the morning, we awoke with the sunrise. A sound came from outside the cabin. We peered out and through the trees and saw what appeared to be a dog coming toward the clearing. What emerged was a feral sow and her 12 piglets. They were no more than 100 feet from the cabin door. The sound was a familiar one. We had heard it in the middle of the night. I tried to snap a picture with my digital camera, but the screen was in the way. We watched them for 10 minutes or so, but our own call of nature required a trip out of the cabin. I stomped my foot down hard, making a loud crashing sound. The sow took off across the field and into the woods. It was quite a sight!

I have often seen bears, wolves, bulls, and even large pigs running across the field- but seldom have I seen piglets- although a few chickens have been known to show up from time to time. We should be seeing some of the wild animal life at LoneStar18. See you there!

Cheers. Peace, and Woofs.

— Peter



The sow and her 10 piglets. Future BBQ?

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



May

www.HeartOfTexasBears.org

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3 7:30p: HOT Board Meeting – South	4	5 Trinity River Bears - Bear Trek V	6 Trinity River Bears - Bear Trek V 10a: Bears Day Out Breakfast Trudy's North Star, 8820 Burnet Road, Austin, 78757 512.454.1474
7 Trinity River Bears - Bear Trek V	8	9	10 7p: Bear Coffee Whole Foods Market Downtown 525 N. Lamar Austin, 78703 512.476.1206	11	12	13
14 4-8p: Bear Bust The Chain Drive 504 Willow Street Austin, TX 78701 512.480.9017	15	16	17	18	19 Bear Watch TCC Activity Weekend (Fri 5/19 through Sun 5/21) TCC PWA Campout (Fri 5/19 through Sun 5/21)	20 Bear Watch TCC Activity Weekend TCC PWA Campout 10a: Bear Breakfast Austin Diner 5408 Burnet Road Austin, TX, 78756 (512) 467-9552
21 Bear Watch 8p: International AIDS Candelight Memorial 2006 Republic Square Park	22	23	24	25 7p: Bears Night Out Hoovers Cooking 13376 Research Blvd. Austin, TX, 78750 (512) 335-0300	26 LoneStar 18	27 LoneStar 18
28 LoneStar 18	29 LoneStar 18	30	31	June 1	June 2 7p: 10th Annual Texas Swing	June 3 5p - 5 th Annual PRIDE PARADE!

2006