



# Bear Briefs

The Newsletter of the Heart Of Texas Bears

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FEBRUARY 2005

## The President's Corner

January is typically a very slow month. But not for the Beer Bust!!!

Thanks to all that came to the Quarterly meeting and then attended the Beer Bust!!!

Bill - thanks for the phone calls. That really does help.

For those that were not there - special plaques were given for the Unrun.

- Steve Rison for the private party
- Mike Hall for taking pictures
- John Cowart for the Bear Contest
- Ed Burluson for the UnRun activities

Again thank you for the hard work. We are all looking forward to this years Unrun.

I have to report that we had the BEST BEER BUST ever. We sold over 250 cups of beer. The first keg was

floated by 6:00 and we still had two more hours to go. We also ran out of cups. That has never happened.

Lets make next months even better. There will be an extra added feature. There is more information about the party in this paper.

The board met to establish the budget for next year. It looks like we will have a good year. Also the audit report will be presented at the next board meeting. Thank you Rick, as always you do a great job.

Also - Peter Reid is our Representative to TCC. He has been to many of the activities and is really happy with the facilities. We are planning a bear run later in the year. Dates have not been set yet. More information will be available later.

We need volunteers to help with the cocktail party at TBRU. We have been given a prime time - the party at the pool. It will be Saturday afternoon. Please let us know if you can help set up - make punch - server and clean up. This is another time for the HOTB to really shine!

We will be holding the Anniversary party at the Chain Drive in April. More information will available soon.

The nominations for officers will be due very soon. I look forward to new officers to lead this organization.

I wish each of you a Happy Valentines Day - hope you spend it with some one you love!

*Leonard Schlueter  
President*

## The Vice-President's Corner

In a recent Time magazine there was an article on happiness. A polled question was "What are your major sources of happiness?" Out of the top eight responses seventy six percent said friends and friendships. Family ranked up there pretty high and since I've adopted certain friends as family, I see this as a double blessing.

Recently a good friend and adopted family member told me of a rough period he had gone through and what helped him though it was the

friends he had found within the HOT Bears. Of course hearing this made me feel good and cancelled out a comment that was directed my way at our last Beer Bust.

In retrospect it was a feeble attempt from an emotional vampire to bring me down, to drain me of all happiness and destroy any joy I have received in my lifetime. As this person began to speak I watched these tiny cat like claws come out and in a Gollum-esque voice hissed "I would never join the Bears,

isn't it a sex club"?

Well, my crotch that he was leering at wasn't going to answer the question. I think it was the low growl and the gritting of teeth that made him look up into my flashing eyes. Hopefully he didn't see the fantasy playing in my mind - An Eyewitness news van, a frightened reporter telling the viewing audience of a possible Bear mauling that had just taken place in the Austin city limits.

(Continued on page 2)

## 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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[amykrause@austin.rr.com](mailto:amykrause@austin.rr.com)

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Donnie Anderson  
254-557-1334

## Upcoming Events

### Saturday, February 5

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!

### February 10 – 13

LUEY weekend in Houston. The clubs and bars in Houston are putting on the 32nd "Let Us Entertain You" weekend... and it's free to folks from out of town! Find out more information at [www.lueyweekend.com](http://www.lueyweekend.com)

### Saturday, February 12

The Capital City Men's Chorus is hosting their annual "Sweethearts Cabaret." More information at [www.io.com/~ccmcaus](http://www.io.com/~ccmcaus)

### Sunday, February 13

Monthly Bear Beer Bust at the Chain Drive (504 Willow Drive, 78701) from 4pm — 8pm. Join the Bears at our home bar for **\$0.50** draft beer.

Plus, this month we are also hosting a "**My Furry Valentine**" underwear party. Wear your hottest pair and join in the fun! We'll have food and prizes too.

### Saturday, February 19

Bear Movie Night starts at 7pm at Leonard's house. Bring a movie and some food share.

### Thursday, February 24

Bears Night Out dinner is up north this month. Join us at 7pm at the **Jason's Deli** in the Arboretum area. It's a fairly new location, right next to the Borders Books at 183 and Great Hills Trail; 10225 Research Blvd, Austin 78759, (512) 345-9586.

### Friday, March 4

Nominations for the next HOT Bears officers must be submitted to the secretary by today!

### March 4 – 6

The Cowtown Rodeo in Fort Worth. For a weekend of

bears and bulls, check out [www.TexasGayRodeo.org](http://www.TexasGayRodeo.org)

### March 11 – 13

FUCR 2005 (Fantasies UnChained Run) in San Antonio, hosted by Chain of Command. You can read about the weekend fun at [www.chainofcommand.org/fucr.php](http://www.chainofcommand.org/fucr.php)

### March 17 – 20

TBRU Ten, the 10th annual Texas Bear Round Up is up in Dallas. Always a fun event. This year it's in a different hotel, and the HOT Bears will be hosting a cocktail party Saturday afternoon at the in-door pool! Get all the details at [www.trbu.org](http://www.trbu.org)

### Sunday, April 3

The HOT Bears Quarterly Business meeting will be at 1pm at the offices of AIDS Services of Austin. We will be electing new officers at this meeting, so don't miss it! It's on the first Sunday of the month this time, to make room

for our Anniversary Party the following week.

### Sunday, April 10

Our annual HOT Bears Anniversary Party will be held at the Chain Drive this year in conjunction with our monthly Bear Beer Bust. Join us at the Chain Drive for a fun, furry, full day of bears, beer, food, prizes, and more. Don't miss it!

### Saturday, April 16

Steve Rison's annual Toga party, **Toga X**. The Bears are invited. Look for more information in next month's Bear Briefs.

### May 20 – 22

BearWatch 6, hosted by the Houston Area Bears. It is a weekend of "Fun, Sun, and Bears on the Beach" in Galveston. The HOT Bears will be hosting a cocktail party again this year. You can read more about the event at [houstonareabears.com/bearwatch](http://houstonareabears.com/bearwatch)

## February Birthday Bears

Bill McConaughay... 2/3	Fred Niemec..... 2/14
Steve Cronin..... 2/5	John Cowart..... 2/23
Tom Parker..... 2/11	Tim Ryan..... 2/23



## Bear Office Nominations

The next HOT Bear Board of Officers will be elected at the April 3rd Membership Meeting.

Nominations must be submitted 30 days in advance, by Friday, March 4th.

Nominations can be submitted by email or write-in. A candidate must receive two nominations from current HOT Bear members to be eligible for office.

## The Vice-President's Corner – continued

(Continued from page 1)

I then smiled. I told him of the eleven hundred dollars the HOT Bears recently donated to Project Transitions from our UnRun. I invited him to Bears Night Out, gave him a tri-fold and told him to check out our website. Maybe he will join the fat tricksie bears. If he does, I'll buy the deer scent and plan a camping trip out into cougar country.

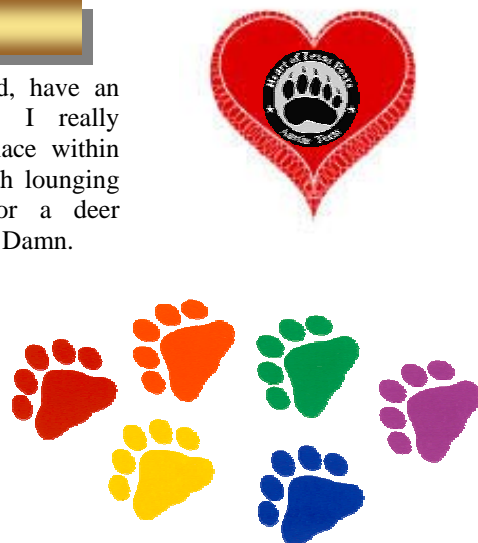
Anyway, back to the

article in Time, a list of eight steps to a more satisfying life:

1. Count your blessings
2. Practice acts of kindness
3. Savor life's joys
4. Thank a mentor
5. Learn to forgive
6. Invest time and energy in family and friends (my personal favorite)
7. Take care of your body
8. Develop strategies for coping with stress and hardships.

And, I want to add, have an active imagination. I really doubt there is a place within driving distance with lounging cougars waiting for a deer scented happy meal. Damn.

Hugs,  
Ed Burluson  
Vice-President



## Vermont Teddy Bear stands firm. Governor says he's opposed to 'crazy' bear

MONTPELIER – Despite mounting opposition – including Vermont Gov. James Douglas – the makers of a straitjacket-wearing teddy bear said Thursday they would continue selling the controversial stuffed toy.

Although he did not directly call on the Vermont Teddy Bear Co. to remove the 15-inch bear from its shelves, Douglas said he finds the toy in poor taste.

“If it were my choice it would have never been offered in the first place,” Douglas said during his weekly news conference. “Mental health is very serious. We should not stigmatize it further with these marketing efforts.”

The Shelburne-based company first put the “Crazy for You” bear on its Web site at the beginning of the week, prompting mental health advocates to call for its immediate removal. The company declined, saying the bear was meant to convey how someone might feel about their sweetie on Valentine’s Day. The \$70 bear will be discontinued after Feb. 14, as the company planned. In addition to wearing a straitjacket, the bear comes with “commitment papers” – simulations of legal documents used to force a mentally ill person into involuntary treatment.

On Thursday, advocates stepped up their campaign to have the bear removed. In a letter to Elizabeth Robert, Vermont Teddy Bear’s chief executive officer, the advocates said they were shocked at the company’s behavior.

“We are frankly very surprised and disappointed that Vermont Teddy Bear Co. has decided to choose profit margin over public sensitivity,” said the letter, signed by three mental

health groups and Rep. Anne Donahue, R-Northfield. “Despite your acknowledgment that it was an ‘edgy’ marketing strategy and that it is offensive to some people, you are moving ahead with the product.”

The letter asked for a meeting with Robert, who, according to a company spokeswoman, has agreed to talk to the mental health advocates. But it will continue selling the bear.

“We have received their letter, and have agreed to meet with them to discuss their concerns,” said Nicole L’Huillier, the spokeswoman. She noted that a “buzz” still surrounds the bear, but she did not have sales figures for the last several days.

To mental health advocates, the issue is clear: making light of a serious illness sends a terrible message.

“From our perspective, the campaign is insensitive, demeaning and wholly inappropriate for a company with a previous history of socially responsible behavior,” the advocates’ letter said.

Vermont Teddy Bear churns out more than 450,000 stuffed bears a year in its Shelburne Road facility. Its worldwide popularity is one of the reasons the factory is consistently ranked as one of the state’s top tourist attractions.

Contact Darren Allen at [darren.allen@rutlandherald.com](mailto:darren.allen@rutlandherald.com)

[Originally published January 14, 2005 by the **Times Argus**, Montpelier, Vermont]

## The View from Buzzards' Peak

[submitted by Peter Reid, aka Mr Grizzly, 2005]

Hi men! This is first in a series of articles about Buzzards' Peak.

The purpose of these articles is to get the word out on these facilities in Cameron. I have recently been getting very involved with the TCC. As a result, Ed asked me to be the TCC Liaison for the club. I'll report on the various runs and events for the next year though these articles.

To start off, I think its a good idea to get out some of the basic information for those of you who might not know of this place — a real Texas tradition for over 20 years!

The Texas Conference of Clubs, Inc. owns and operates a secluded 30-plus acre campground. TCC 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. The HOT Bears are a member of this group.

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. It is also know by other names — among them: Texas Conference of Clubs, TCC Landsite, The Campground, and even “Rosebud” — one of the oldest runs that is held there annually.

Since 1983 many improvements have been made to the land site. Facilities include showers, toilets, running water, electricity,



a professional kitchen, a Pole Barn (for performances), and a sound system. The campground also has hiking trails and gathering places for meditation and celebrations. In addition to its increasing use by the member clubs, TCC now offers the use of the land site to interested community groups for their recreational functions.



*In the evenings, this fire pit is a gathering place.*

The TCC’s Buzzards' Peak land site is located in East Texas near the town of Cameron, Texas. Its about an hour and 20 minutes from Austin. An easy trip through the country side!

Most months the TCC has an “Activity Weekend” where members spend all or part of the weekend at the land site taking care of the general maintenance. These weekends are free to TCC

*(Continued on page 4)*

## The View from Buzzard's Peak — *continued*

(Continued from page 3)

members, which includes the HOT Bears. All are welcome and work assignments are also followed by informal dinners and camaraderie among the participants.

In addition, there are numerous weekend events (aka: "runs") scheduled during the year by member clubs and organizations. All runs and events are made possible by the volunteers of the clubs and TCC members. I will be reporting on these runs

through out the year.

I encourage all of you to take advantage of this facility- and if you have questions or wish to know more, take a look at the TCC Website: [texasconferenceofclubs.com](http://texasconferenceofclubs.com) — PR

*View of the TCC land site taken during New Years weekend  
photos provided by Peter Reid*



# My Furry Valentine



**Sunday, February 13<sup>th</sup>**

4pm — 8pm

at the Chain Drive

*Beer Bust*

*Food*

*Prizes*

It's an Underwear Party  
so wear your *hottest* pair!

# February

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

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
		<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> <b>10a: Bears Day Out Breakfast</b> Trudy's North Star, 8820 Burnet Road, Austin, 78757 512.454.1474
<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10 LUEY 32</b>	<b>11 LUEY 32</b>	<b>12 LUEY 32</b> <b>7p: CCMC – Sweethearts Cabaret</b>
<b>13 LUEY 32</b> <b>4-8p: My Furry Valentine - Bear Bust &amp; Underwear Party</b> The Chain Drive 504 Willow Street Austin, TX 78701 512.480.9017	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> <b>7p: Movie Night at Leonard's home</b>
<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> <b>7p: Bears Night Out</b> Jason's Deli 10225 Research Blvd (Hwy 183) Suite 1010, so Austin, TX, 78759 512.345.9586	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>1 March</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4 Cowtown Rodeo</b>	<b>5 Cowtown Rodeo</b>

View the latest calendar information for this month and future months at the online calendar on the HOT Bears web site

**2005**