



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

MARCH 2005

The President's Corner

Again what a month!

Hope all of you spent Valentines Day with some one you love!

And for those that did not attend the Beer Bust and Underwear Party – you missed a great time. Thanks to all that made it a success.

March is going to be a very busy month and a good month to start getting out of the New Year blues! I know I am looking forward to that. It has really hit me hard this year. It started me to thinking about what would help get me out of the New Years Blues!

This month has lots of activities to get our spirits soaring!

One way to let our spirits soar is to go to the kite festival in Zilker Park. It is the first weekend in March. It is a great way to spend a Sunday afternoon and see some amazing kites. They are all homemade.

Then we have St.

Patrick's Day. We all become Irish for the day and get filled with spirits!

Then to really lift our spirits is TBRU. It is a good weekend to meet new friends and renew old friendships. All for those that will be there – we can use your help to serve at the pool party. They have a new schedule this year and it looks to be more exciting. Remember to bring your swimwear – that will make lots of spirits soar!!!

Then Easter comes the next weekend. This will make it officially Spring!!! The night before Easter is game night at Bill and Toms house.

Then if you want some thing very different – go to Fredericksburg for the Easter Fires. It is a very old tradition for that area. On one Easter eve the children were afraid because of the fires the Indians had lit on the hilltops. The settlers told the children that it was the Easter bunnies dying eggs. The tradition has

been kept over the years.

There is also the Easter Sunrise Services. That is always an inspiration and a time of reflection.

Plus all of our normal HOTB monthly activities will help to let our spirits soar!

After thinking about all there is to do this month - I am really excited and the New Years Blues will be fading away. I hope that you will also get excited about the month and attend lots of the monthly activities. I look forward to seeing that enthusiasm at the events this month. It is time to come out of the bear dens and get back into the activities.

I must admit I have gone from less than enthused to very excited about the month.

Also all the nominations for officers are due this month.

*Leonard Schlueter
President*

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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1114 West 5th Street (78703)
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10% discount on all items with HOT Bear membership card

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(512) 445-5304
summit.home.texas.net

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

WoofWax.com

Donnie Anderson
254-557-1334

Third anniversary Shirts... a real find!

Guys, own a small piece of Bear history. These are shirts that the Bears had for the third anniversary party. We have a limited number so order soon, we have seven shirts; three are XXL and four are XXXL. For only \$5.00 you can have a bit of the history of your club!!!

We all know that warmer

weather is coming. We H.O.T. Bears will need cooler shirts. We have a small amount of the tank tops with Bruno in both white and black; one XL and three XXL. They are great for the cubs or the Bears to show their support to the club... and again they are only \$5.00!

*Tom Parker
Treasurer*



Upcoming Events

Thursday, March 3

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

Saturday, March 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!

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

Saturday, March 12

Bear Game Night. Bill and Tom will be hosting game night this month. January's Game Night was well attended and a lot of fun. Join us start at 7pm. Bring a game to share!

Sunday, March 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. The theme for this month's Beer Bust is **green**. Show up in something green and enjoy the afternoon with your Bear Brothers. We'll have food and prizes too.

March 17 – 20

TBRU Ten, the 10th annual Texas Bear Round Up, is up in Dallas this weekend. Always a fun event. There will be over 600 bears at this event! This year it's being held in a different hotel and the HOT Bears will be hosting a cocktail party Saturday afternoon at the indoor pool! Get all of the details at www.tbru.org

March 18 – 20

Activity weekend at the TCC Landsite. If you'd like to spend a nice weekend camping out at the landsite with friends and helping on some projects around the place, the TCC activity weekends are for you! For more information contact Peter Reid or email the club at info@HeartOfTexasBears.org

Thursday, March 31

Bears Night Out dinner is central this month. We're going Italian at the newly opened Rocco's Grill. It's located at 612 West 6th Street, right next door to Katz's Deli (that's 6th

and Rio Grande). Join us at 7pm for dinner.

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 from 2pm to 8pm for a fun, furry, full day of great food, awards, games, prizes, and lots of *hot* bears!

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 6 – 8

The Trinity River Bears are hosting a run at the TCC Landsite. It's called **Bear Trek IV**. It promises to be a fun weekend. To register, visit www.TrinityRiverBears.com

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

May 27 – 30

Lonestar 17. This annual run at the TCC Landsite is held over the Memorial Day weekend. This is always a big event at TCC. For more information contact Peter Reid or email the club at info@HeartOfTexasBears.org

October 7 – 9

Back to the Woods... A HOT Bears run at Buzzards' Peak. As Peter's column in this issue talks about, the HOT Bears will be hosting a run at the TCC Landsite at Buzzards' Peak near Cameron, Texas. Three days and two nights camping under the stars with Bears in the woods. \$60 per person. All food, drink, entertainment, and a run pin included. Don't have a tent or trailer? No problem. Stay in the bunkhouse. For more information, please email: bttw@HeartOfTexasBears.org

March Birthday Bears

Ed Burleson 3/5 CJ Phillips 3/20
Thad G..... 3/12 Troy New 3/31



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Bear Office Nominations

Interested in becoming a HOT Bear Officer? Nominations for our upcoming election are due by Thursday, March 3rd. To be nominated, you need to have two current HOT Bear members to send in your name by email to info@HeartOfTexasBears.org

, or mail it in to our PO Box 684391, Austin, TX, 78768-3491.

We will elect the next Board of Officers at our next Quarterly Membership Meeting on Sunday, April 3rd.

**FEBRUARY
BEER BUST &
UNDERWEAR
CONTEST**



Yahoo! Bears

I've been a member of the Heart of Texas Bears for a couple of years. I consider myself fortunate to have gotten to know a lot of you already, and I can truly say that the overwhelming positive attitude of the club's membership is what keeps bringing me back. (Plus, we always seem to have a lot of fun!) We had a blast in 2004, and added a major new event to our calendar, in the HOT Bear "UnRun", and I'm excited to hear about other new events this year, like the Bears in the Woods TCC Landsite Run.

I have always thought that the Heart of Texas Bears needed a mailing list, or a web-forum, for members to interact and share ideas "off the calendar," or informally. I know a lot of the time, I just need to get out of the house, and there is always something cool to do in Austin. Even slacker bears like me can get out at nearly the last minute and go hear some live music, or catch a movie or a play. I thought a e-mail list would help find like-minded men to hang out with. A team was formed to explore the options and work with the Executive Committee (your officers of the club) to set something like this up. This team decided to set-up a "Yahoo! Group," and opened it to a testing by a limited number — everyone who came to the January Quarterly Meeting, namely.

Well, our testing period is over, and e-mails and invitations have gone out to the entire membership now. Last time I checked we have 44 members, and 41 messages posted so far this month,

which is great! There has been a lot of interaction already, but I would love to see more. We should be able to double the number of members to the new Group — all it would take to do this is everyone we've already invited to sign up! So consider this a gentle reminder...

You'll need to sign in with a Yahoo! ID, then point your web browser to <http://groups.yahoo.com/groups/HOTBears> and click on the **Join Now** button. Easy as that! You can set your account to receive every e-mail as they are posted to the group's e-mail address, you can receive a daily digest of all the posted e-mails, or you can also set your preferences to receive only the Special Notices from the group's moderators and read your fellow member's messages on the website. The HOT Bears Yahoo! Group website also has features to share photos so we can put names with faces, a real-time chat room, and other web-based features, like polls, etc.

If you need any help with joining, or if you have any questions about this new service, please contact commbear@HeartOfTexasBears.org — my fellow moderators and I will do our best to answer any questions.

Mickey Ferguson

Regular Member, Heart of Texas Bears



The View from Buzzards' Peak

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

Hello Bearmen! This month, I would like to write a little bit about what a run is like at the TCC Landsite. I have attended many over this past year, and expect **Bears Back to the Woods** (the HOT Bears run coming October 7-9), will be modeled after them. Here is a possible scenario.

You find the right turn off to the campground and travel down a long dirt road and enter the landsite. Stopping at the check in point, you pick up your badge and information packets that contain a schedule, a run pin and fliers about more runs for later on in the year. There are sign up sheets for activities and to get on the list if you want to be in the show on Saturday evening. You enjoy the first cocktail party when checking in — one of many to come!

Set up your campsite with flags, lights, torches, and tents, or check into the bunkhouse. Come up to the kitchen for a serve-yourself supper with your fellow arrivals. Help yourself to the free beer or soda at the open tap. Head to the Pole Barn for opening ceremonies and announcements.

In the evening, there will be cocktail parties and social gatherings around the fire pit, at the pool, and at various campsites. There might be a special group meeting at the compound later on that evening for those who like to socialize late into the evening. If you are not feeling social, take a long



Our mascot, Bruno, will be used for the run pin — a traditional gift for those attending

walk and watch the stars from Buzzards' Peak.

Saturday morning, wake up to soft music and enjoy a continental breakfast in the dining area. The scavenger hunt starts at 10am and goes until 7pm. Friendly competition games with prizes happen all day long for those who want to join in — or you can splash in the pool with your fellow bears. Of course, there will be cocktail parties all day long, along with a good lunch. For those who want a little alone time, a hike in the woods is always enjoyable, and you never know what kind of nature you will encounter.

Saturday evening, there will be a big dinner, cooked up by Shannon (Mr. HOT Bear) followed by a show hosted by John Cowart (our MC at the UnRun last year). Afterwards, more cocktail parties and further fellowship around the campground. By now, you might have experienced a Texas Pinning from one of your fellow campers — one of the great traditions at runs like these.

Sunday morning will be a good brunch, followed by closing ceremonies — complete with awards to the winners of the games, best campsite, cocktail parties, and a few special awards to those who have participated the most during the weekend. Break camp and drive home relaxed and rejuvenated.

A weekend run produces good memories and perhaps you will make a few new friends along the way. Its a special time to be yourself and enjoy all that a retreat has to offer. — PR

Heart Of Texas Bears

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**Don't
Forget
To Wear
Your Green!!**



**Sunday March 13th
4-8pm**

50 cent draft



- *Food***
- *Games***
- *Prizes***
- *Fur***
- *Fun***
- *Friends***



March

www.HeartOfTexasBears.org

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3 HOT Bears Officers Nominations Due by Today	4 Cowtown Rodeo	5 Cowtown Rodeo 10a: Bears Day Out Breakfast Trudy's North Star, 8820 Burnet Road, Austin, 78757 512.454.1474
6 Cowtown Rodeo	7	8	9	10	11 FUCR 2005	12 FUCR 2005 7p: Game Night at Bill B & Tom P's house
13 FUCR 2005 4-8p: Bear Bust The Chain Drive 504 Willow Street Austin, TX 78701 512.480.9017	14	15	16	17 TBRU Ten ♣ St. Patrick's Day ♣	18 TBRU Ten TCC Activity Weekend	19 TBRU Ten TCC Activity Weekend 1-3p: HOT Bears Cocktail Party at TBRU
20 TBRU Ten TCC Activity Weekend	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31 7p: Bears Night Out Rocco's Grill 612 West 6 th St. (next to Katz's) Austin, TX, 78701 512.480.5920		

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

2005