



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

JULY 2006

From the President's Desk



Pride month in Austin was full of fun for Bears and non-Bears alike. Here are some pictures from the 5th Annual Austin Pride Parade and the fundraiser that the Austin Bapstist Women, the HOT Bears, and TGRA Austin

held at the Cockpit (on the next page).

At the Pride Parade we won the Grand Marshal's Award for Most Creative entry. At the Cockpit, we helped to raise a total of \$1,682 for Project Transitions. Way to go Bears!

Thanks to everyone who helped to make these two events such a success!

Sponsors

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

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1114 West 5th Street (78703)
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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)
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Midtowne Spa of Austin

5815 Airport Blvd. (78752)
(512) 302-9696
www.midtowne-spa.com/austin
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Phil Nelson

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11506 Boulder Lane (78726)
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amykrause@austin.rr.com

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(254) 557-1334



July Birthday Bears

A.J. Rabushka	7/1	Sergio Rodriguez	7/18
Steve Brahm	7/5	Michael Henderson ...	7/21
William Bohrer	7/7	David Low	7/22
Rob Blanchette	7/9	Eduardo Reveles	7/23
Roy Adkins	7/17	Jeff Kennedy	7/27

Upcoming Events

Saturday, July 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!

Saturday, July 8

Guadalupe Tubing! Come join us for a tubing trip down the Guadalupe river starting at 11am. But wait! Gary & Denny have invited the HOT Bears to camp at their homestead on Friday and Saturday nights. **Please see** the article below for more information and a schedule.

Sunday, July 9

The **HOT Bears Quarterly Business Meeting** will be at 1pm at the **Austin History Center**. The History Center is downtown at 9th and Guadalupe. Join us, hear about upcoming club events, elect Officers for the next Board, and share your ideas! Remember... it's **your** club. Bear Beer Bust will follow the meeting at the Chain Drive.

Sunday, July 9

Monthly Bear Beer Bust at the Chain Drive (504 Willow Drive, Austin, TX 78701) from **5pm — 9pm**. Join the Bears for **\$0.50** draft beer. Come on down and end your weekend enjoying the afternoon with your Bear Brothers.

Saturday, July 15

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!

Wednesday, July 19

Bear Coffee. Join your Bear Brothers for some friendship, fun, and caffeine. This month we are going downtown to **Halcyon**, located at 218 West 4th Street; on the corner of 4th and Lavaca. Their phone number is 472-9637. Halcyon is a coffeehouse, a bar, and a lounge all in one. And for you cigar bears, they also have a good sized humidor. See you there at 7pm.

Friday — Sunday, July 21 – 23

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.

Thursday, July 27

Bears Night Out dinner will be at **Evangeline Cafe**, 8106 Brodie Lane, (512) 282-2586. Join the Bears for some great Cajun cooking this month at 7pm.

Sunday, July 30

HOT Bear Fur Frenzy. Join us from **5pm — 9pm** at **The Cockpit Club** (2nd and San Jacinto, formerly Dicks Deja Disco). This is a new event, at a new bar, and we're excited about it. We'll be serving beer on the back patio with plenty of Bear Brotherhood!

Saturday, August 5

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

Guadalupe River Tubing

Come for the tubing trip, come for the weekend, or just stay one night (Friday or Saturday). It's up to you! **Please note** that tubing on the Guadalupe river is a **physically demanding** activity in the hot Texas sun. If you have **any** concerns that you cannot carry yourself, your tube, and any thing else you bring along (such as an ice chest) down the river for the full five hour trip down the river, then we'd prefer that you stay and participate in the Bear Brotherhood with your Brother Bears in the cool of Gary & Denny's air-conditioned home during the afternoon. Tubing not required — y'all can just visit too! Here's our itinerary:

Friday, July 7

Come pitch your tent at Gary & Denny's starting at **2pm** on Friday July 7. We'll have a group potluck dinner at **7:30pm**. BYOB. Stay the night or just come for the potluck.

Saturday July 8

We'll do a group breakfast on Saturday morning starting at **9am**. Bring breakfast foods to cook up and share with everyone.

Gather by **11am** at Gary & Denny's home for tubing on the Guadalupe. There is a **\$10** charge for renting the tubes. Bring sunscreen and drink. Sorry, no glass or polystyrene (coffee cups) on the river. We'll leave for the river at **11am**.

We should return by about **4pm** and we'll have a cookout and bear fellowship. The Heart of Texas Bears is providing the hamburgers and hot dogs and Gary will provide the sides. The Heart of Texas Bears will also provide keg beer and a cocktail party on Saturday night.

Sunday July 9

We'll do a group breakfast on Sunday morning. Bring breakfast foods to cook up and share with everyone. With the fuel of a good breakfast, it'll be easy to break camp and pack up. Then we'll head into Austin for the HOT Bears Quarterly Membership meeting at **1pm**!



The View from Buzzards' Peak



*Friends,
Last weekend, Ed and I attended a memorial service for Diahna Morris. Diahna was a former Vice Chairman of TCC, very involved with the TCC, and a close friend. She loved Buzzards' Peak and all the things the Texas Conference of Clubs stands for. She was well respected in the gay community and loved the Bears. I think it is fitting that I share with you her eulogy that was written and read by Gerry Garcia, a mutual friend of ours, who is also very involved at the landsite.
Peace. -Peter*

We gather today to remember a friend, sister, and wife who touched each of us in her own special way.

In the past few days, we have reflected, remembered, and tried to recollect the smallest things about her, we try to remember how she talked, how she laughed – or what made her laugh and how she smiled. We try to remember as quickly as we can, all her physical traits as if a train is rushing past us and we try to memorize every bit of it, as we see the end come and go in a split second – straining our eyes to catch the last glimpse of the end of the train, that we know will never come to pass again.

Time will eventually make it difficult for us to remember those small, but important things. But that's OK, because time will also heal the sorrow and sadness we feel today.

I met Diahna about 5 years ago and fast became good friends. Even faster, we became "best friends". Though she lived in League City and I in San Antonio, most of our adventures were at Buzzards Peak, a campground where she with Stan, and me with my partner Jack would have weekends, sometimes a week at a time – hanging out, visiting their porch or them ours, cooking, visiting mutual friends at their own campsites, or just "porch seating" late into the night.

Those late nights spent there were peaceful and fun. I remember we'd all end up hungry, either we'd bring out her famous egg salad sandwiches, or cook our specialty, hard-fried egg sandwiches.

At other times, when there were large-attended functions at the campsite after a long evening of activities, we would steal away and observe all the people having a great time. We would do this for hours, not knowing that the enjoyment was not watching other people, but sharing the moment with each other.

The campsite was a place that gave her much enjoyment. She loved that place. She enjoyed the peace and the beauty of it. She enjoyed the people and mostly enjoyed spending long days with her closest friends.

She did leave two major marks on the campsite: The first were her Lethal Cocktails – Her creativity went beyond normal when mixing her specialty drinks. They were powerful and hefty quantities that would serve anywhere from 70 to 200 people.

The second, was as the founder of a very special order called the Poo Family – and that's not as Winnie the Pooh. It all began when we toilet papered one of our friends campsite. Well, Diahna took off with the idea and ran with it. By the time, we knew it – she and then us began assigning Poo names to everyone. It got so popular that we probably had well over 50 members, and people clamored to be given their Poo name. Diahna's Poo name would change, but the one I know fit her best was Imelda Poo because she had so many pairs of shoes.

The sole purpose of this club, was to sponsor a large cocktail party at campsite events where her cocktails were much anticipated - sometimes she would even add a parade having all of us participate.

She was a person who truly believed that everyone should be able to like and get along with each other. She is one of the two brightest people I have ever met, and she knew that it was next to impossible for everyone to like each other all the time, yet she tried to surround herself with this idea. All she wanted to do was make sure that everyone was included and no one was excluded.

Most of the time she succeeded and sometimes she didn't, that is what made her a special person. She never gave up.

As many of you know, Diahna had special kinships with many people in Texas and across the country. She used to say, "yeah man, I remember that time – I was living in "such and such" town we used to have a ball. That was her favorite phrase. She liked having a fun time.

Her friendships with people were closer than most of your regular friendships, she allowed you to come in at-close-range and then drop loads and loads of crazy and wild ideas and ways of looking at things that actually made you enjoy life more.

Diahna was a complex character, she could act the part of a child, where simple things would tickle her, knowing full well how silly it was. Sometimes she would give you a recitation of a complete analysis of some complicated situation, leaving you not able to believe that it was coming from the same person.

Her ability to let herself open to all levels of intellect made her a prime candidate to have as a friend. I feel lucky that I met Diahna and feel fortunate that during the 5 years I knew her she took me in as her best friend. As I wrote these words, my strength is somewhat diminished when I think of her, her love for me, and I know in my heart, that she will always be a special person to me.

Time will eventually bring each of us gathered here to the point that we'll have come to terms with her death. We will be satisfied with having known her and with the memories that will linger in our minds till we depart this earth. For she came into our lives, slowly at first, bit by bit like a summer storm, with a deliberate but increasing cadence that erupts into a whirlwind of ideas. Slowly the cadence diminishes with spotty raindrops and a clearing sky.

Today, for each of us, is that clearing sky. She has come and gone. And we are left like the leaves on a tree after a storm, beaten by the raindrops till we bend, but grateful for the visit we have had.

I say this with all my love. *Gerry Garcia — June 18, 2006*



Diahna and the Poo Family at "Back to the Woods" – October 2005. Gerry is standing behind Diahna.

July

www.HeartOfTexasBears.org

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>Austin History Center - 810 Guadalupe Street (9th & Guadalupe), Austin, TX 78701 (512) 974-7480 The Chain Drive – 504 Willow St., Austin, TX, 78701 (512) 480-9017 Austin Diner – 5408 Burnet Road, Austin, TX, 78756 (512) 467-9552</p>					<p>June 30 TCC –Lonestar Leathermen Unrun (through July 3)</p>	<p>1 10a: Bears Day Out Breakfast Trudy's North Star, 8820 Burnet Road, Austin, TX 78757 (512) 454-1474</p>
<p>2 TCC –Lonestar Leathermen Unrun</p>	<p>3 TCC –Lonestar Leathermen Unrun</p>	<p>4 Independence Day</p>	<p>5 7:30p: HOT Board Meeting – South</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7 Guadalupe Tubing 2p onward – Arrive and setup your campsite 7:30p – Potluck Dinner and cocktail party</p>	<p>8 Guadalupe Tubing 9a – Breakfast 11a – Tubing on the Guadalupe River 4p – Cookout and cocktail party</p>
<p>9 1p: Quarterly Membership Meeting at Austin History Center 5-9p: Bear Bust at The Chain Drive</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14 TCC – AGN Nekkid Men Camping 5 (through July 16)</p>	<p>15 10a: 2nd Breakfast at Austin Diner</p>
<p>16 TCC – AGN Nekkid Men Camping 5</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19 7p: Bear Coffee at Halcyon</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21 TCC Activity Weekend</p>	<p>22 TCC Activity Weekend 1p: TCC Summer Mtg at TCC Landsite</p>
<p>23 TCC Activity Weekend</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27 7p: Bears Night Out Evangeline Café</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p>
<p>30 1p: New MemBears Social Event 5p-9p: HOT Bears Fur Frenzy at The Cockpit</p>	<p>31</p>	<p>Halcyon – 218 West 4th St., Austin, TX, 78701 (512) 472-9637 Evangeline Café – 8106 Brodie Lane, Austin, TX, 78745 The Cockpit – 113 San Jacinto, Austin, TX, 78701 (512) 457-8010 View the latest calendar information for this month and future months on the HOT Bears web site</p>				

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