



Bear Briefs

The Newsletter of the Heart Of Texas Bears

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DECEMBER 2008

From the President's Den



Traditions

Merry Holidays to you all! Whether it be the Winter Solstice, Chanukah, Kwanzaa, Christmas, Other or "None of the Above," this time of year is full of traditions and rituals that bring people together as well as help those in need. You have to be a very cold hearted person not to have at least one sentimental thought between now and January 1. If you are in the dumps, there is a party for you: The HOT Bears annual club party. Thank you Leonard for doing it again this year! This annual potluck and party is always great. For our club charity this year, we ask that you bring an unwrapped toy for a teenager. Suggestions are watches, games, CDs, make-up kits, gloves, hats, UT clothing. We are also collecting for the Austin Area Food Bank. Canned goods are requested. Stop by early or late if you have other holiday gatherings. Multiple parties are better than one and its the time of year to do as many rounds of cheer as you can. I look forward to seeing you at Leonard's and elsewhere this season. Also, make sure you get your picture taken at the December beer bust with Bear Santa. All money for it goes to charity. Kissing Santa is allowed... groping is not (unless you ask first).

As for me, it's all about the food. I'll be making scotch shortbread and brambles (my family tradition) along with kugan (Eric's family tradition). I say "Ba-Humbug" to all of you cynics! I love this time of year. We will get a live tree to decorate in December and plant it in January. A wreath will hang on our door and greet folks we have over for dinner. I'll give more time and money to charity, and look for thoughtful (yet affordable) gifts for friends and family. This year, I fly to Ohio to be with Eric and his family—a 1st for me. While it may sound dreadful to many (a holiday visit to one's partner's family), I am looking forward to it (next summer, Eric travels with me to meet my parents).

As I was saying: family traditions go deep—as does traditions with the HOT Bears. As a club, we do things on an annual basis—some things have been around for a long time (Christmas Parties, Dive In Movies, Marching in the Parade,

Chain Drive Beer Busts) while others are more recent (UnRun, Back to the Woods, Second Breakfast). Some regular events that have happened in the past years are no longer a ritual—but remain great memories. After being involved with the HOT Bears for 4+ years, I have seen new members join while other, older members decide not to renew. The "old guard" is changing and being added too. New members are becoming involved and contribute their ideas and energy to keep the club a good one. New traditions are being founded (I suspect the Rusty Spur will be a second, regular place for the HOT Bears to hang out...). How cool it is to see such energy in such a short period of time.

Speaking of opportunities for new members... Starting in January we are accepting nominations for new board members. Since Kelly and I have served as President and Vice President for two 1 year terms in a row, we must step down and let others take over. I cannot speak for Kelly, Jon, or Shawn—but I have decided to be a regular, contributing member in 2008 and not run for another office. Being on the board is fun and enjoyable (I recommend the experience to anyone interested). However, it's time to let others take over, if this club is to remain strong. Let us hear from you if you want to be part of a great, 11 year old, Austin tradition.

I hope to see many of you at Leonard's as well as events leading into the new year!

—Peter - president@HeartOfTexasBears.org

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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Chain Drive

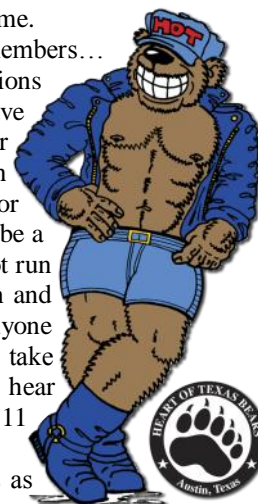
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We had a good time at the Rusty Spurs...

A group of HOT Bears met at the Rusty Spur's a couple of Sunday's ago to check out Austins newest bar, and to enjoy the \$1 pints of draft beer they had. In fact we had so much fun, we want to do it again! So check out the December calendar to get all the details. Everyone I spoke with (Bears and non-bears alike)

really liked the outdoor patio and the overall atmosphere of the place. And on certain Sunday's they host a "Bring Your Meat" BBQ. You bring the meat and they will cook it up for you (for a small donation) They even provide the fixins!



Upcoming Events

Tuesday, December 2

HOT Bears Planning Meeting. Join the officers for their monthly board meeting at 7:15pm. This time, it will be at the home of Jon Sofley, your treasurer. See the HOT Bear Happenings email for the address. Your input will help make the Club better!

Friday, December 5

Bears on Ice! What better way to ring in the holiday season than with ice skating? So join your fellow "Figure Skating" Bears (you know who you are) as we skate on down to **Chaparral Ice Rink** at North Cross Mall. Join us at **7pm** sharp for lots of Bear Brotherhood as we skate for the gold! [2525 Anderson Lane, Austin, TX, 78757 (512) 252-8500 ext 9] Cost is \$10 for admission and skate rental. If we get a group of 10 or more it's only \$8. **Please note** that the skating rink entrance has moved to the opposite side of the building. So if you don't see it, drive around until you do.

Friday, December 5

Put on your dancing shoes (or boots) and join other fellow Bears, Cubs, Otters, and Admirers at Rainbow Cattle Company and kick up your heels! The dance starts at **9pm** and goes all night long. Dance sponsored by XXL - London, the Lonestar Bears of Austin, and the Rainbow Cattle Company. [305 W 5th, (512) 472-5288]

Saturday, December 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, December 10

Coffee With Da' Bears! Join your Bear Brothers for some friendship, fun, and caffeine (Note: caffeine optional). This month we are heading to **Genuine Joe Coffeehouse**. They offer some great coffee choices and some fabulous local eats! See you there at **7pm**. [2001 W. Anderson Lane Austin, TX 78757 (512) 220-1576]

Friday, December 12

Guerilla Queer Bar from 6pm to 9pm. See **SmokingBanana.com** for details.

Saturday, December 13

Leonard has, once again, graciously opened his home for our **Holiday Party**, and yes He'll Be A Cookin'! Lots of meat and vegetarian lasagna are the main course, and we will do potluck of sides and dessert. All that attend are asked to bring either a new unwrapped toy for a child/teen -or- much needed pet items to give to a local charity. See Peter's article for ideas about what to buy. Please, **no** stuffed animals, as it is very difficult to find charities who will accept them.

So break out the tinsel, and wear your favorite holiday ensemble, and join us for a time to **CELEBRATE** with all our fellow Bears. The party starts at **7pm**. Check your HOT Bear Happenings for location and directions.

Sunday, December 14

Monthly Bear Beer Bust at the **Chain Drive** from **4pm — 8pm**. Join us as we anxiously await the arrival of "SANTA BEAR" and his naughty elves this year at our home bar with 50¢ draft beer! Have your picture taken with BAD Santa for \$2 (all proceeds go to children's charities).

We are also collecting food for the food bank, so bring a non-perishable food item and help someone in need. [504 Willow Street, Austin, 78701, (512) 480-9017]

Thursday, December 18

Bears Night Out. Join us for an Italian feast downtown at **Brick Oven Italian Restaurant**. Join us there for dinner at **7pm**. [1209 Red River St Austin, TX 78701, (512) 477-7006]

Join us immediately following Bears Night Out for a stroll down **Austin's Trail of Lights Display**. We will park in the State parking garages adjacent to Waterloo Park (for a nominal fee) and catch the shuttle from there. They will drop us off at the front gate and will return us back to Waterloo Park after we are done. So be sure to wear some comfy shoes and join us for dinner and a "light show".

Saturday, December 20

2nd Bear Breakfast at **10am** at **The Bakehouse Restaurant & Bar** (austinbakehouse.com). Join us for some great breakfast cooking and lots of Bear Brotherhood! [5404 Manchaca Road, Austin, 78745 (512) 443-5167]

Rusty Spur Sunday Beer Bust

A group of HOT Bears have decided to check out Austin's newest bar, and want to invite you to come join them for \$1 pints at Rusty Spurs, just West of I-35 on 7th street. See you there at **4pm**. [405 E. 7th St., Austin 78701, (512) 482-9002]

Saturday, January 3

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

Chain Drive Update...

Just a little information to keep you up-to-date on the situation at our home bar. The Chain Drive has hired a new manager (Michael). I met him briefly a few weeks ago, and he seems to be a really nice guy. Be sure to say Hi and let him know you are a member of the HOT Bears.

As a board, we would like to sit down and meet with him (after he gets settled in) and discuss what he sees for the future of the bar, and how it affects the HOT Bears. Given the slowing economy, and the on-hold status of the condo project slated for that property, we want to get a better idea of what to expect in the

coming months. As you know, most of our activities are not bar dependent, but we do host a monthly Beer Bust and it's the home of the UnRun coming up here shortly.

I also got word that the back patio will be open during the December Beer Bust, and that Kiwi will be opening the bar early on Friday's and would love to have any of the guys stop by on the way home after work, and have a cocktail with him. I'm not sure exactly when this will start, but I got the impression that it would be sooner than later.

— Kelly Stephens



THE HEART OF TEXAS BEARS

December 2008 HOT Bears Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
30 TCC Activity Weekend	01	02 7:15pm» HOT Bear Planning Meeting	03	04	05 🌙 7pm» Bears On ICE!!!! 9pm» XXL Dance	06 10am» Bears Day Out Breakfast
07	08	09	10 7pm» Bear Coffee	11	12 ☀️ 6pm» Guerilla Queer Bar	13 7pm» HOT Bears Holiday Party
14 4pm» Santa BEAR @ Bear Beer Bust!	15	16	17	18 Austin's Trail Of Lights 7pm» Bears Night Out - Central	19 🌙	20 10am» 2nd Breakfast
21	22	23	24 Christmas Eve	25 Christmas Day	26 Kwanzaa Begins	27 🌑
28 4pm» Rusty Spurs Sunday Beer Bust - YEEEEHAW!	29	30	31 New Years Eve	01 New Years Day	02 TCC Fire & Ice	03 TCC Fire & Ice

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