



Bear Briefs

The Newsletter of the Heart Of Texas Bears

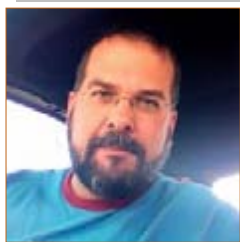
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APRIL 2009

From the President's Den



April is an Ursa Month

This is a big month for the HOT Bears. We have the **UnRun** and **Mr. HOT Bear Contest**, elections are being held for new officers, and we celebrate 11 years as a non-profit. On our 11th Anniversary, I think about our club; what a "Bear" is; and

the future of gay clubs in general. After all, these things change and morph into variations.

For a small city like Austin, the HOT Bears is a big club. On average, we have at any given time, 120 members. What you get out of the club depends on what you are looking for. From my own observations I estimate that there are about 20 very active members who get really involved in everything. There are also members who attend just one kind of event (i.e.: beer busts, dinners, Back to the Woods, etc), while others join to get the newsletter and stay in contact with their friends in Austin. Some use the club as a social outlet or coming out group. Some join simply to be part of a larger group. I have heard that some bear clubs across the world accept only bears for membership, are kept small and closed, are under one person's permanent leadership, or openly condemn anyone who does not fit their definitions of a Bear. I am proud that The HOT Bears do not discriminate and welcome anyone who wants to join- no matter what their physical type is. The only requirement is that you enjoy the company of men, be accepting of yourself and others, and use the club for enjoyment. We try to stay drama free. Really.

Quarterly HOT Bears Business Meeting April 5th

The HOT Bears Quarterly Business Meeting and Officer elections will be at 2pm at the Austin Library, Carver Branch in room #3. Join us, hear about upcoming club events, and share your ideas! Remember, it's your club.

[1161 Angelina, Austin, TX 78702, (512) 974-1010]

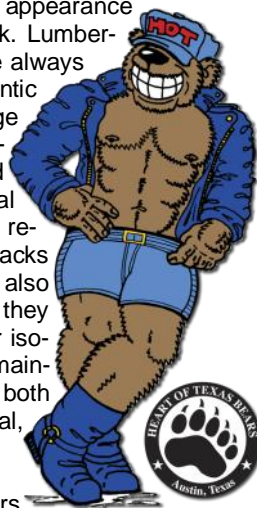
"What's a Bear?" asked, my mother. or "Is 'Woof' a Compliment?" asked, my friend.

OK, internet search time. Take the following quotes for what they are worth. My apologies for those of you hard core researchers. The examples were sited here to show the diversity of opinions out there.

From Wikipedia:

...Bear in LGBT communities is a metaphorical reference to the animal of the same name with similar notable features. These features include the animal's hairiness, its solid proportions, and also its perceived masculine power. The bear is both fat and powerful, and the reconciliation of these two qualities is at the heart of the Bear concept's appeal. It is also no coincidence that Bears are typically very similar in appearance to the ideal of the North American lumberjack. Lumberjacks often encounter bears and the two have always been associated with each other. A romantic conflation of the bear and the lumberjack image provides the Bear trope its metaphorical appeal. Lumberjacks were romanticized and fetishised in gay culture long before the arrival of the Bear concept, and the Bear concept retains strong traces of this older ideal. Lumberjacks appealed to gay men at aesthetic levels but also for reason of their homosociality, the fact that they were working class, and for the fact that their isolation from urban society (and hence from mainstream gay culture) opened up a fantasy of both secrecy and liberation, within an idyllic, rural, North American setting.

The self-identification of gay men as Bears originated in San Francisco in the 1980s as an outgrowth of the gay biker and then later the leather and "girth and mirth" communities. It was created by men who felt that mainstream gay culture was unwelcoming to men who did not fit a particular "twink" body norm (hairless and young). Also, many gay men in rural America never identified with the stereotypical urban gay lifestyle, and went



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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 - Skivvies
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

Midtowne Spa of Austin

5815 Airport Blvd. (78752)
(512) 302-9696

www.midtowne-spa.com/austin

Phil Nelson

Registered Massage Therapist
(512) 301-3376

Saturday, April 4

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, April 4

Looking for some fun and camaraderie with other Bear-minded men? The **Austin Movie Bears** meets a couple of times each month at a different movie theater in the greater Austin area. The Austin Movie Bears is not an official function of the HOT Bears, but is open to all men who identify with the Bear lifestyle. See you there! See **AustinMovieBears.com** for details.

Sunday, April 5th

The **HOT Bears Quarterly Business Meeting and Officer Elections** will be at **2pm**. The meeting will be held at the Austin Library, Carver Branch, room #3. The library is located at 1161 Angelina, Austin 78702; which is a few blocks east of IH-35 on 11th Street. Their phone number is (512) 974-1010. See the HOT Bears website for a map. Join us, hear about upcoming club events, and share your ideas.

Sunday, April 5th

Monthly Bear Beer Bust at the **Chain Drive** from **4pm — 8pm**. **Now the 1st Sunday of each month!** Join the Bears for **\$0.50** draft beer. Come on down and end your weekend enjoying the afternoon with your Bear Brothers. [504 Willow Street, Austin, 78701, (512) 480-9017]

Tuesday, April 7

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. See the HOT Bear Happenings email for the address. Your input will help make the Club better!

Tuesday, April 7

Live in Texas but don't know how to "scoot-a-boot"? Then head on down to the Rusty Spurs and grab some **free** lessons every Tuesday night. Rusty Spurs is just west of I-35 on 7th Street. See you there at 8:15p. [405 E. 7th St., 78701, 482-9002]

Friday, April 10

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

Tuesday, April 14

Roller Bears. It's an "all skate" evening with the HOT Bears down at **Playland Skate Center**. Join us at 7p sharp for lots of Bear Brotherhood as we skate to all your favorite tunes! [8822 McCann Drive, Austin, TX, 78757 - (512) 452-1901] Tuesdays are adult night (18 and up) and the cost is \$7.

Tuesday, April 14

Free dance lessons at the Rusty Spurs.

Thursday, April 16

Bears Night Out. Dinner this month is in North Austin at **Rudy's Country Store and BBQ**. Come join us for some lip smacking BBQ!!! See you at 7pm (Bear Time). 11570 Research Blvd. Austin, TX 78759, (512) 418-9898.

Saturday, April 18

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]

Saturday, April 18

Leonard has, once again, graciously opened his home! This time for our 11th Anniversary Party, and yes **We'll Be A Cookin'**! We have sent out an Evite invitation, so be sure to look for it in your email. It contains all the information about the event! So mark your calendars now

and set aside the date for a time to CELEBRATE with all your fellow Mem-Bears.

Some people have commented that they did not see the Evite in their emails. The Evite was sent from my personal account under the name of *James Stephens*. So start looking there. If you still don't see it please contact VP@HeartOfTexasBears.org.

See ya there! Kelly Stephens, VP.

Sunday, April 19th

Join the HOT Bears for our **new second beer bust** each **3rd Sunday of the month**. Join us from **4pm — 8pm** for \$1 pints on the back patio and BBQ cooked up by the **Rusty Spurs** Staff at **Rusty Spurs**, just west of I-35 on 7th street. See you there at 4pm. [405 East 7th, 78701, (512) 482-9002]

Tuesday, April 21

Free dance lessons at the Rusty Spurs.

Friday — Sunday, April 24-26

Activity Weekend at the TCC Landsite. Camp out and help work on some improvements for the Landsite. Saturday The TCC Spring meeting is at 1pm on Saturday.

Friday — Sunday, April 24 -26

The annual Heart of Texas Bears **UnRun**. Joins us for a weekend of Bear Brotherhood, cocktails parties, pool parties, food, and, of course, the annual Mr. HOT Bear Contest! Visit the UnRun 5 web site: **HeartOfTexasBears.org/unrun**

Tuesday, April 28

Free dance lessons at the Rusty Spurs.

Saturday, May 2

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

HOT Bear T-Shirts Available!!

We have a second printing of our newest HOT Bear t-shirt (bear in front of the Capitol dome) this time in Chocolate Brown. Be sure to get yours for UnRun weekend!!!! Cost is \$10 and we have all sizes available. (We still have a limited quantity of the same t-shirt in black so hurry before they are all gone!!)

We also have the large (9" target logo) patch, for your bar vest or jacket...small (3" target logo) patch.....and club pins too!!!

Contact VP@HeartOfTexasBears.org for more information.

From the President's Den

(Continued from page 1)

searching for an alternative which more closely resembled the idealised blue collar American male image...

From www.TheCompleteBear.com:

... The danger here is whatever we define, somehow excludes those that don't match that description – which never was the intent. The strongest attribute of the bear community is inclusion - freedom to be who you are, to look how you look, and acceptance from your bear brothers.

From *New York Magazine* (by Carl Swanson pub in 2005):

... [bears are] gay men who look rather like middle aged straight men who have not been metrosexually harassed into banishing carbs from their diets and hair from their shoulders...

From www.TheCubbyHole.com:

"Bear" more often than not, represents an attitude. A sense of comfort with ones own masculinity and body that doesn't cater as much the styles and models so prevalent in most gay circles. The most common definition of a "bear" is a man who is hairy, has facial hair, and a cuddly body.

From www.yelp.com/topic/san-francisco-what-is-a-bear:

Question: Hired a new person at work, and my boss called him a Bear. Like as in the actual name of an animal.

Sampling of responses:

"I'm not sure the boss meant "bear" in the Folsom Street sense. is the boss gay?"

"I'd also think in the context of grouchy."

"In stock market terms... a bear is pessimistic, and thinks the markets will hibernate."

"It's a compliment"

From the HOT Bear Bylaws:

The Club was founded on the truth that people need to maintain fellowship and fraternity with others of like mind and interest. The Club exists to support the eradication of discrimination, especially with regard to physical appearance; provide social opportunities that enhance the personal growth and self-esteem of its members; exemplify diversity and inclusiveness in our community; promote the healthy expression of alternative lifestyles; and foster positive community involvement and service.

What's The Point?

Like the rest of humanity, Bears are a diverse culture and attitudes among them are evolving. As American society becomes more accepting of overall diversity, I often wonder if the day will come when gay clubs of any sort will no longer be needed. But, that's another column...

As always, email me with any thoughts, suggestions or comments.

—Peter

president@heartoftexasbears.org



UnRun and April 24 - 26 Mr. HOT Bear Contest



UnRun 5 & HOT Bear Contest April 24 - 26

Schedule

Friday, April 24

- 7pm Meet and Greet @ Rusty Spurs**
403 East 7th St • (512) 961-1746
- 7pm Scavenger Hunt Begins @ Rusty Spurs**
Details at the Meet and Greet
- 10pm Party Continues @ Chain Drive**
504 Willow St (512) 480-9017
- 9pm After Registration Party @ Joe and Tom's**
Private Residence. Be at the Meet and Greet to get location details

Saturday, April 25

- 10am Bear Breakfasts:**
Trudy's North Star 8820 Burnet Rd. (512) 454-1474
I-Hop 707 E Caesar Chavez St (512) 478-1188
BakeHouse 5404 Manchaca Rd (512) 443-5167
- 12pm Eeyore's Birthday @ Pease Park**
Shuttle buses are at Colorado and 17th street.
- 2pm Frisbear Golf @ Zilker Park Disc Golf**
Near MoPac, South of Barton Springs Road in Zilker Park
- 2pm Capital Tour @ Capital Building Steps**
- 9pm Scavenger Hunt Ends @ Chain Drive**
- 9pm HOT Bear Contest @ Chain Drive**
504 Willow St (512) 480-9017

Sunday, April 26

- 10:30am Dim Sum @ Shanghai Chinese & Dim Sum**
6718 Middle Fiskville Rd (512) 458-8088
- 4pm Beer Bust @ Rusty Spurs**
403 East 7th St • (512) 961-1746

Sponsors



and the



Membership



THE HEART OF TEXAS BEARS

April 2009 HOT Bears

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
29 11am» HOT Bear - Dog Walk	30	31 8:15pm» Dance Lessons at the Spur	01 April Fool's Day	02 ☾	03 TCC EROS Camp Out	04 TCC EROS Camp Out 10am» Bears Day Out Breakfast
05 TCC EROS Camp Out 2pm» Quarterly Meeting & Officer Elections 4pm» Bear Beer Bust	06	07 7:15pm» HOT Bear Planning Meeting 8:15pm» Dance Lessons at the Spur	08	09 ☀	10 6pm» Guerilla Queer Bar	11
12 Easter	13	14 7pm» Roller Bears!!!! 8:15pm» Dance Lessons at the Spur	15 Tax Day	16 7pm» Bears Night Out	17 ☾ TCC Discipline Corps Camp Out	18 TCC Discipline Corps Camp Out 10am» 2nd Breakfast 2pm» HOT Bears 11th Anniversary Party
19 TCC Discipline Corps Camp Out 4pm» Spurs-n-Fur	20	21 8:15pm» Dance Lessons at the Spur	22 Earth Day	23	24 UnRun 5 TCC Activity Weekend	25 ☀ TCC Spring Meeting UnRun 5 TCC Activity Weekend
26 UnRun 5 TCC Activity Weekend	27	28 8:15pm» Dance Lessons at the Spur	29	30	01 ☾	02 10am» Bears Day Out Breakfast

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