



# Bear Briefs

The Newsletter of the Heart Of Texas Bears

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MAY 2007

## From the President's Desk



Marcus and I celebrated our eighth anniversary last month. I heard once that gay relationships can be counted in dog years, fifty six years sounds about right. We love each other and I look forward to the next "fifty six".

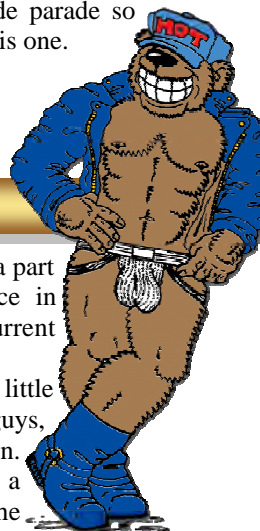
I have to be honest with you guys, I feel like I am counting down the days to when my term of office ends and not in a bad way. It has been a good run and I feel like we, as a board, have gone in the direction that best served the membership. One of my many goals was for the HOT Bears to be a presence in the Austin community and if that meant walking in a parade, grilling a burger or two, or slapping a

dress on my fat ass, so be it. I think we have reached that place where people are directed to us and we've become known as a fun bunch to be around. And I think all you can do is live by example, in nine years this Club has grown and has come to mean a lot to many men.

This has taken most of the day to write because the garden is just on the other side of the glass, the dog's want attention and I found a pair of size thirteen hiking boots for twenty four dollars that need to be broke in.

The fat tricksee bears have something up their sleeves for the Pride parade so mark your calendar for this one.

Hugs,  
Ed Burleson



## Welcoming the new HOT Bear Officers

At our Quarterly Business Meeting last month we elected new officers. For those of you who couldn't make it to the meeting here are your new officers:

President	—	Peter Reid
Vice-President	—	Kelly Stephens
Secretary	—	Eric Miller
Treasurer	—	James Bryant

A big thanks and congratulations to these four fine members who have volunteered to work for **you** over the next year to continue making the Heart of Texas Bears the type of

club that you want to be a part of. They will take office in July, when your current board's term ends.

To give you a little background on these guys, here is an introduction. They each wrote a welcome message for the *Bear Briefs*.

Be sure to say hello to these guys when you see them out!



### President — Peter Reid

Thanks to all of the club members present at the Annual HOT Bears meeting. As the newly elected president of the HOT Bears, I look forward to working with the old board during the transition period while both old and new information and processes of how our club is run. I have asked Kelly, Eric, and James to share a little bit about themselves in this month's Bear Briefs. I will do the same.

Many of you know me from my regular column here as the Texas Conference of Clubs representative. I love TCC, go up there often, and was granted a permanent campsite in 2005. I have been an active member of the Heart of Texas Bears since arriving in Austin in February of 2004 and founded "Back to the Woods," our annual campout at TCC.

I am a graphic designer and have been working in the educational publishing industry since 1985 in the area of textbook development.

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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.

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Simply put: I make textbooks for a living. A new job brought me to Austin, Texas from New York City and Chicago in 2004.

I have a creative bent that extends toward everything I do. Camping, gardening, fishing, building, making art, attending live performance, traveling, and weekend road trips are among my favorite pastimes. I have a great dog named Mook, who likes to ride in the back of my old, white mustang convertible. I consider

myself an optimist and have little patience for drama or negativity. I think working toward and finding the good is better than obsessing about what is wrong.

As Ed did, I will write a lot about our club doing's each month in the Bear Briefs. I do answer emails. So if you have any questions or concerns, please email me at any time: **President@HeartOfTexasBears.org**.



#### **Vice-President — Kelly Stephens**

Hello fellow bears, cubs, and admirers. For those of you who do not know me, let me introduce myself. My name is Kelly Stephens and I am your newly elected Vice President.

I wanted to take this time to let you know how excited I am about the upcoming year, and share a little bit more about myself. I moved to Austin in July of 2002 (job transfer) from that great thriving metropolis of Lubbock Texas. I work as a mechanical engineer, and design commercial HVAC and plumbing systems. I have a partner of 10 months, Vince, and a Min-Pin named Tyler. I joined the HOT

Bears in 2006, and have had a blast ever since, participating in different club activities and meeting different people. I love to have fun and I hope you do too, because we have some great activities planned this year and we want to see you there!

So when you see me out-and-about, come on up and say HI! I look forward to meeting those of you who I have not met yet, and getting to know those I have, even more. Feel free to contact me at any time at **VicePresident@HeartOfTexasBears.org** with comments or suggestions. Remember, this is **your** club, and we are here for **you**.

Best wishes and lets have a **great** year!

*Woof!*  
*Kelly*



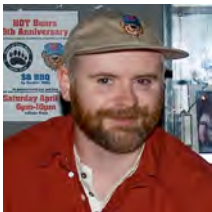
#### **Secretary — Eric Miller**

Hello, I'm Eric Miller and the new secretary for the Heart of Texas Bears. I moved to Texas from upstate New York in 2003 to study evolutionary biology at The University of Texas, and I hope to finish my degree in one or two more years (finally...).

I joined the HOT Bears a year ago in order to become involved in the gay community in Austin. Besides The Bear's various social events, I think the club has the potential to

offer the wider community a lot through more service opportunities. This is a key reason why I decided to run for secretary, in addition to wanting to keep this club running smoother than thrice-whipped chocolate mousse. I also enjoy vegetarian cooking (especially at The House of Science, where I live with two other students), photography, and traveling. Feel free to email me at **Secretary@HeartOfTexasBears.org** if you would like to talk about any aspect of The Heart of Texas Bears.

—E



#### **Treasurer — James Bryant**

Hi Guys,

I wanted to take this opportunity to introduce myself, for those who don't already know me. My name is James Bryant and I am pleased to represent you as the new Treasurer on the 2007 HOT Bears Board.

I have been a member of the HOT Bears for over 2 years now. Ironically I joined The Heart of Texas Bears as the current board was taking office. Over this time the club has grown considerably, under the guidance of the current board.

I had been weighing up standing for a position on the board for the past year. I have thought long and hard about how I can both repay my debt of gratitude to the club and effectively serve the club. After some thought I decided that standing for the

position of Treasurer would represent the best fit for my skills.

While on the board, one of my personal objectives is to further promote the development, integration and growth of the club. I strongly wish to emphasize and strengthen the prevailing sense of community and inclusion within the club. I also wish to sponsor continued member participation, transparency and a sense of democracy within the management of the club.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve both the club and you. Please don't hesitate to contact me at **Treasurer@HeartOfTexasBears.org** if you have any comments, feedback or suggestions which I can convey to the current board.

*Regards,*  
*Jim*

### **May Birthday Bears**

Steve Bailey.....	5/1	Paul Crisantes.....	5/18
Raymond J. Kuhar....	5/1	Gary Wene.....	5/19
Jacob Duncan.....	5/3	John Perry.....	5/21
Dwane Porter.....	5/3	Daniel Villarreal.....	5/20
Kip Wanamaker.....	5/8	Scott Coleman.....	5/23
Mark Briody.....	5/13	Daniel Trevino.....	5/26
James Bryant.....	5/17		



## Upcoming Events

### Saturday, May 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!

### Wednesday, May 9

Coffee With Da' Bears! Join your Bear Brothers for some friendship, fun, and caffeine downtown this month. We're going to **Little City Espresso Bar & Café** on Congress Avenue. Enjoy a cup of java, snacks, and some Bear Brotherhood! See you there at 7pm! [916 Congress Ave, Austin, 78701, (512) 476-2489]

### Friday – Sunday, May 11 – 13

**PWA Campout** at the TCC Landsite. See below for details.

### Sunday, May 13

Monthly Bear Beer Bust at the Chain Drive (504 Willow Drive, Austin, TX 78701) from **4pm — 8pm**. Join the Bears for **\$0.50** draft beer. Come on down and end your weekend enjoying the afternoon with your Bear Brothers.

### Monday, May 14

Rainbow Rollerskating A monthly rollerskating event for the Austin gay and lesbian community. Held at Skate World, 9514 Anderson Mill Road, Austin, 78729 (512) 258-8886. You can rent skates or bring your own. Additional donations that night go to charity. Visit [main.org/rainbowskate](http://main.org/rainbowskate) for details.

### Friday – Sunday, May 18 – 20

**Activity Weekend** at the TCC Landsite. See below for details.

### Saturday, May 19

2nd Bear Breakfast at 10am at **Austin Diner**, 5408 Burnet Road, Austin 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!

### Thursday, May 31

Bears Night Out dinner this month is a good ole' boy BBQ! We're headed to **Artz Rib House** on South Lamar Blvd. See you there at 7pm (Bear Time). [2330 S. Lamar, Austin, TX, 78704, (512) 442-8283]

### Friday – Monday, May 25 – 28

**Lonestar 19** at the TCC Landsite. See below for details.

### Saturday, June 2

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

## The View from Buzzards' Peak



### What's going on up here?

I was up at the landsite earlier this week. My god! It is beautiful. New trees planted, old tree leafed out. The wildflowers are everywhere.

We have re-done the TCC Trailer and have made it more comfortable. The Bunkhouse is getting a make over as well. New carpet, paint, bedding, curtains, and a good cleaning have helped make it a more cheery place.

Right now, it's April. We will be de-winterizing the campground for Lonestar and other events in May:

#### May 4-6

Trinity River Bears "Bear Trek" You can still go and sign-up at the gate.

#### May 11-13 PWA Charities Campout.

Eric and I are volunteering, I am doing the games and helping with food. This fee for this weekend is \$25- but is voluntary for any HIV+ person attending. These guys have a blast and it's a really a fun time- rivaling any club run that I have attended.

#### May 20-22 Activity Weekend.

Come on up and enjoy a free weekend of camping under the stars. No tent? The bunkhouse is usually available as well as the TCC Trailer. A Saturday Potluck is always on the agenda.

#### May 25-28

Lonestar! I hope many of you will attend- its not to late to sign up to the largest fundraiser that TCC has. All money goes directly to the landsite to pay for taxes, water, and maintenance. This is a really great long weekend.

### June 15-17

TCC Activity Weekend. This is free to all members and their guests. A regular Potluck is held Saturday night. June is a great time to be there. Not much work to do, the weather is great, the bugs are low, and there are usually 20+ a weekend of relaxation. Bring some friends and enjoy.

As always, a complete TCC calendar is here: [TexasConferenceOfClubs.com](http://TexasConferenceOfClubs.com). Or you can email me for directions and questions: [flyfish\\_peter@yahoo.com](mailto:flyfish_peter@yahoo.com).

See you in the Woods!

-Peter





## Hawaiian Shirt Theatre Club



*Arts on Real* theatre and *Naughty Austin Productions*, one of Austin's most popular theatre producing teams, embarks on its eleventh year of shows with "The Full Monty" Terrance McNally's winning Musical Comedy, directed by Blake Yelavich, choreographed by Walter Songer, featuring national talent Tom Andrew. Unemployed steel workers in Buffalo decide to take matters into their own hands and go all the way stripping for their audience, lots of G-strings and buns, plus ? This is not the movie version, but "The Musical", winner of 9 Tony awards. I have not seen the musical and am looking forward to it.

Theatre Night ...Friday May 25th @8 pm, *Arts on Real* regular ticket price is \$32, but for the members of our theatre club, ...up to 15 it's \$25... but over that number the price drops to \$22. I know we can get a really large group, there's way more than 15 of us looking for some song and dance with hot guys baring it all... I know I'm dancing as fast as I can trying to keep y'all up on what's going on the live theatre scene in Austin, Anyone paying early, until we reach the required 16+ will get a \$3 refund theatre night, (a little extra for that intermission libation). Don't wait, let's get the ball rolling, 65 of us attended "Take me Out" On April 12th, at the Zach and 20 of us enjoyed "Jeffrey" on the 20th at "Arts". Let's take over *Arts on Real* for this one.

Call 440-8398 or email me ASAP. Rob Blanchette, [majorvacation73@hotmail.com](mailto:majorvacation73@hotmail.com).



### Pictures from the HOT Bears 9<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Party



Woof!



# May

[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> 7:30p: HOT Board Meeting – South	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> Trinity River Bears - Bear Trek V	<b>5</b> Trinity River Bears - Bear Trek V 10a: Bears Day Out Breakfast Trudy's North Star, 8820 Burnet Road, Austin, TX, 78757 (512) 454-1474
<b>6</b> Trinity River Bears - Bear Trek V	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> 7p: Bear Coffee Little City Espresso Bar & Café 916 Congress Ave. Austin, TX 78701 (512) 476-2489	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> PWA Campout / TCC	<b>12</b> PWA Campout / TCC
<b>13</b> PWA Campout / TCC 4-8p: Bear Bust The Chain Drive 504 Willow Street Austin, TX 78701 (512) 480-9017	<b>14</b> 8p-11p: Rainbow Skate Skate World Austin 9514 Anderson Mill Rd. Austin, TX 78729 (512) 258-8886 (Rink Info)	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> Bear Watch 8 TCC Activity Weekend	<b>19</b> Bear Watch 8 TCC Activity Weekend 10a: 2nd Breakfast Austin Diner 5408 Burnet Road Austin, TX, 78756 (512) 467-9552
<b>20</b> Bear Watch 8 TCC Activity Weekend	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> LoneStar 19	<b>26</b> LoneStar 19
<b>27</b> LoneStar 19	<b>28</b> Memorial Day LoneStar 19	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> 7p: Bears Night Out Artz Rib House 2330 S. Lamar Blvd. Austin, TX, 78704 (512) 442-8283	<b>June 1</b> 8p: 12th Annual Texas Swing	<b>June 2</b> 5p - 6th Annual PRIDE PARADE!

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

2007