



# Bear Briefs

The Newsletter of the Heart Of Texas Bears

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JUNE 2007

## From the President's Desk



This is my last article for the Bear Briefs as president, after two years I hand it over to Peter Reid. Peter is a good man and I look forward to the new directions he and his executive board will take us in the coming year, or two.

I want to thank all of you that made being a steward for the Heart of Texas Bears such an enjoyable experience for me. And the few that could not be pleased, bite me. This being my last article and all.

I never figured out why there is a Pride parade in June, in Texas, in this heat. One of it's saving graces is that it is at night and everyone looks good in soft lighting and it is all about the lighting. This year the parade route is shorter and what we have planned as a walking group involves very little as in the way of props. This being my last year as president I would like to see a big turn out of course and I would never resort to making anyone feel guilty for not marching but, I have a roster and I know where you live. So, "Don't rain on my Parade".

I usually like to share a story of Pride past but with all this looking forward business the only thing that comes to mind is the group picture of us after the parade that was took a couple of years ago. Every time I see it I smile and in my mental dictionary it is filed under happiness. I can still hear Kip yelling "Show us your belly"!

And it isn't over until the fat lady sings. Do not miss the Unity show at The Cockpit the following Sunday. The HOT Bears will be slinging beer in the back bar, TGRA will be serving food and a bevy of beauties will be

entertaining you. Note: I am not liable for any therapy or alcohol consumption that may occur from the visions of loveliness you will witness. "Crawl" on down for a "Peachy" time.

I sign off now and I hope the words from "I am what I am" get stuck in your brain.

I am what I am, I am my own special creation  
So come take a look, give me the hook,  
or the ovation

It's my world and I want to have a little pride in  
My world, and it's not a place I have to hide in  
Life's not worth a damn, till you can say

"Hey world,  
I am what I am"!

I am what I am, I don't want praise,  
I don't want pity

I bang my own drum, some say it's noise,  
I think it's pretty,

And so what if I love each feather  
and each spangle

Why not try to see things from a different angle?  
Your life is a sham till you can shout out loud

I am what I am

I am what I am, and what I am needs no excuses  
I deal my own deck, sometimes the ace,  
sometimes the deuces

There's one life and there's no return  
and no deposit

One life so it's time to open up our closet  
Life's not worth a damn till you can say

"Hey, World,  
I am what I am"!

*Prideful Hugs,  
Ed Burlison*



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# Austin Pride Parade!

Saturday, June 2nd - Setup at 5pm

## Upcoming Events

### Saturday, June 2

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, June 2

The 6<sup>th</sup> annual Austin Pride Parade. The Bears have been in the parade every year, and this one should be another fun one! *Watch your email for details*, but plan to meet down at Riverside and South Congress (the usual parade meeting place — the TxDOT parking lot) around **5pm** to help put together this year's creation (don't worry, it's not the giant flag contraption again). **Please wear a Hawaiian shirt to help add color to our group.** This year's parade theme is "United For Diversity — Deep In The Heart Of Texas". We'll be walking again this year, we'll be bringing **bottled water** along, and the parade route is **shorter** this year!

### Sunday, June 3

Join the Austin Baptist Women, the HOT Bears, and TGRA Austin for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual "**Community Unity**" at the Cockpit. Starting at **5pm** the HOT Bears will be serving \$0.50 draft beer and TGRA will be cooking up brisket and more on the back patio. Then at **7pm** the show begins! Proceeds will benefit the Capital City Rodeo to be held this September in Austin. The HOT Bears will be hosting a Saturday night pool party at the Rodeo in September. YeeHaw! Cowboys, Bears, and Baptist Women... who knew?! Crawl and Peaches say "ya'll come!" [see the article on page 3]

## New T-Shirts!

I know quite a few of you were at the HOTBears' 9<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Party back in April, and you've seen the new club t-shirt and perhaps bought one, already. You might have also heard my halted — but heartfelt — speech that night, and if you did, well, I suppose you can just skip to the end of this.

Again, I wanted to thank the members that submitted art for the rest of the club to vote on — John Snyder, Steve Bailey, and Ed Burlson. I realize that we had a very short schedule, and you guys did awesome with the brief time you had. I was even more pleased by the response we got to the poll... a little over half of the membership! Huge thank-yous to all who voted and voiced your opinions! It was a very close vote, with only 4 votes separating Ed's & Steve's design ideas. I will be presenting the totals and accumulated suggestions and opinions at the July Quarterly Business Meeting, and if you have any other suggestions — or ideas! — please send them on. I think we'll definitely be doing this again, so it's never too late to be

### Sunday, June 10

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, June 11

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, June 15 — 17

**Activity Weekend** at the TCC Landsite.

### Saturday, June 16

Bear Game Night. It's been a while since we've had a game night... it's time! Tom is hosting a potluck and game night. Bring some food or drink to share, and a game to share. The fun starts at 7pm. Check your Members' Only calendar for directions.

### Wednesday, June 20

Coffee With Da' Bears! Join your Bear Brothers for some friendship, fun, and caffeine (Note: caffeine optional). This month we are meeting at **Spider House**, located just north of the campus area in Central Austin at 2908 Fruth Street. They offer a wide selection of food and drinks in a unique Austin atmosphere. See you there at 7pm. There number is (512) 480-9562.

### Saturday, June 23

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!

### Saturday, June 23

Dive-In Movie Night! Watch a funny movie while floating in a pool with a bunch of bears... what could be more fun?! Ed & Marcus are hosting a Dive In Movie and Pot Luck for the HOT Bears. It should be a splashing good time! Check your Members' Only calendar for directions.

### Thursday, June 28

Bears Night Out dinner this month is at an Austin classic dining location. We're headed to **Hula Hut** on Lake Austin Blvd. See you there at 7pm (Bear Time). [3825 Lake Austin Blvd., Austin, TX, 78703 (512) 476-4852]

### Friday, June 29

The Bear Bar Crawl is back for June! Come join your fellow bears for a drink at **'Bout Time**, just north of Rundberg Lane on the northbound I-35 service road. See you there at 7pm (Bear Time). [9601 N. I-H 35, Austin, TX, 78753 (512) 832-5339]

### Saturday, July 7

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

## June Birthday Bears

Michael Lucas.....	6/2
Floyd Jones.....	6/3
Ron Sullivan .....	6/5
David Siegel .....	6/11
Dig Arnold.....	6/13
James Acuña.....	6/14
Bill Rodgers.....	6/16
Thomas Brabandt.....	6/17
Thomas Bolt.....	6/20
Wayne Gorrell.....	6/20
Jim Laferla.....	6/27
Eric Miller .....	6/27
Kevin Hoban.....	6/29

brainstorming and sketching out your ideas. We had a very positive experience with Vreeland Graphics, who worked with us to get quality shirts with really sharp artwork. I personally think the shirt has a lot of "souvenir" appeal, and we're well on our way to selling out of the first run. So pick up one for you and for a friend!

Soon we'll have online ordering, but for now, look for an officer at a club event, or send an e-mail to [treasurer@heartoftexasbears.org](mailto:treasurer@heartoftexasbears.org) with "T-shirt" in the subject line, and let us know how many of each size you need.

The shirts are a \$12 (donation) for club members, and \$20 for non-members, and we have them in sizes from Medium through XXX-L.

—Mickey Ferguson

## The View from Buzzards' Peak



### What is a run?

Now that the season is here, I have been getting the regular questions about what happens at a run at Texas Conference of Clubs from guys who have never participated in these events. Hope the following answers some of these:

### “How far do we run at runs?”

A “run” referees to a weekend get away- as in “Run for the border.” The origin of the term comes from motorcycle clubs in the 50s and 60s who used it to refer to a weekend gathering place. It was adopted first by gay leather clubs referring to weekend gatherings.

### “Is it all about sex at the run?”

No. Back to the Woods and other runs at TCC are about camaraderie and enjoying the campground for what it is: A private beautiful wooded setting away from noise and stress. Although you are free to engage in whatever mutually consensual activity you wish, nothing is required of you either by rules or social expectations.

### “What is there to do when I get there?”

Most weekend runs at TCC are set up in a similar way. On Friday: meal, meet and greet. Saturday: group meals, games (card games, field games), an evening feast, followed by a show put on by the host club. Sunday: brunch and departure. During that time, there are cocktail parties, happenings (such as floating a stuffed bear in the air last year) and any other surprises the host club wants to do to entertain the attendees. Some participants relax and read, while others try and do all the activities offered.

### “I am single. Is it mostly couples?”

TCC events are one of the best places to meet new friends. Many are single who attend events. If you go alone, you will have no trouble finding folks to hang out with. People have a tradition of walking around in the evening and visiting with each other. Groups get expanded and always welcome a new face.

### “How big is it?”

It is 38 acres of woods. The campsites take up about 1/3 of that. There are short trails to hike in.

### “Can I drive to my campsite?”

Yes- but you will have to move your car to the parking field during larger runs.

### “Can I take my trailer?”

Yes, but larger trailers will have trouble on the dirt road into the site.

### “Can I go to check it out- without committing to a run?”

Activity weekends are free to all. There is usually a potluck meal on Saturday night. The kitchen and walk-in cooler are always available to you to cook your own food. There are places nearby if you want to go out for breakfast or lunch.

### “How much work is an activity weekend?”

If you are new to the site, nothing is expected. However, if you would like to rake leaves, paint a building, cook a meal, start a card game, or build a fire, you are welcome to do so.

### “I don’t camp. Where can I stay?”

There is the recently renovated bunkhouse or the TCC Trailer is available on a first come first serve basis. During Activity Weekends, there is usually room. I do not suggest staying at a hotel nearby since a lot of the best times are in the evening.

### “I work weekends. When can I go?”

You can go up there anytime during the week- as long as there is not a club who has booked it for weekdays. Its best to check the calendar at [TexasConferenceOfClubs.com](http://TexasConferenceOfClubs.com) or email me [flyfsh\\_peter@yahoo.com](mailto:flyfsh_peter@yahoo.com) to find out.

### “When does it close?”

TCC is open year around. There are runs years around. It is beautiful year around.

As always, if you have any additional questions about TCC and what goes on there, please do not hesitate to email me.

*Woofs & cheers.*

*-Peter*

## Dig Space and his Art Show



A new HOT Bears member, who is also new to Austin, will be displaying his art at the *Dougherty Arts Center*. The opening is on June 28 from 6pm to 9pm. The showing lasts until July 30. Here’s a little information about him...

Dig Space has been painting and sculpting since 1966 when he was 13 years old. His style is Futurist Primitive with zen tao and nature as major sources of inspiration. Zen tao is a philosophy, not a religion. Conceptualization and stylization are also important aspects of his work.

The name Dig Space is a statement as well as a name. It means to understand nothingness. Zen tao teaches that an artist must understand the space around an object as well as the object itself in order to truly portray it. Dig Space creates 3-dimensional paintings by using thickened acrylic gesso to form heavy reliefs and textures. He paints many different subjects but is particularly fond of southwestern landscapes and spacescapes. Some of his work is detailed, complex and brightly colored and some is extremely modern and minimalist. Dig Space doesn't agree with the dogma that art critics force upon artists. He feels he has an obligation to challenge the critics and go beyond the dogma because the foundation of all creative work is the intelligent questioning of the rules.

## A commUNITY of Pride Event—Sunday, June 3, 2007

If you saw last year’s show, you know what a fun time we had with TGRA & The Austin Babbit Women at the Cockpit — well, get your ruby slippers out of the closet, because we’re doing it all again! It’ll be the Sunday after Austin’s Pride Parade, again this year — that means June 3rd! Again we are supporting TGRA, who are hosting this fundraiser at the Cockpit. TGRA will also be serving us food (Brisket...to be exact), and that’s

always a tasty plate!

The HOT Beartenders will be there, serving up a good ol’ Beer Bust and keeping your thirst quenched. I’ve heard a rumor that certain big-boned gals will make another rare appearance, during the show — as if The Austin Babbit Women weren’t enough! Food and Beverage begins at 5pm and entertainment promptly at 7pm. See you there!

# June

[www.HeartOfTexasBears.org](http://www.HeartOfTexasBears.org)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p><b>Austin's 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Pride Parade</b> – We'll gather at 5pm in the TxDOT parking lot at the North East corner of South Congress and Riverside Drive to assemble our entry for the parade. Parade at 8PM</p> <p><b>COME MARCH WITH US on Saturday June 2<sup>nd</sup> !!!</b> ☺</p> <p><b>Bear Bust - Chain Drive:</b> 504 Willow Street, Austin, TX 78701 (512) 480-9017  <b>Skate World Austin:</b> 9514 Anderson Mill Rd., Austin, TX 78729 (512) 258-8886 (Rink Info)  <b>2<sup>nd</sup> Breakfast - Austin Diner:</b> 5408 Burnet Road, Austin, TX 78756 (512) 467-9552  <b>Community UNITY - The Cockpit:</b> 113 San Jacinto, Austin, TX, 78701 (512) 457-8010</p>					<p><b>1</b>  <b>7p: 11th Annual Texas Swing</b>                      Saengerrunde Hall and Scholz's Bier Garten                      1607 San Jacinto                      Austin, TX, 78701</p>	<p><b>2</b>  <b>10a: Bears Day Out Breakfast</b>                      Trudy's North Star,                      8820 Burnet Road,                      Austin, TX, 78757                      (512) 454-1474  <b>5p - 6<sup>th</sup> Annual PRIDE PARADE!</b></p>
<p><b>3</b>  <b>5p: Community UNITY Event at The Cockpit</b></p>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<p><b>6</b>  <b>7:30p: HOT Board Meeting – North</b></p>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<p><b>9</b>  <b>Noon-8p: Pride Fest Waterloo Park</b>                      15<sup>th</sup> St. &amp; Trinity                      Austin, TX, 78701</p>
<p><b>10</b>  <b>4-8p: Bear Bust The Chain Drive</b></p>	<p><b>11</b>  <b>8p-11p: Rainbow Skate Skate World Austin</b></p>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<p><b>15</b>  <b>TCC Activity Weekend (through June 17<sup>nd</sup>)</b></p>	<p><b>16</b>  <b>7p: Game Night at Tom Bolt's Home</b></p>
<p><b>17</b>  <b>TCC Activity Weekend</b></p>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<p><b>20</b>  <b>7p: Bear Coffee Spider House</b>                      2908 Fruth St.                      Austin, 78705                      (512) 480-9562</p>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<p><b>23</b>  <b>10a: 2nd Breakfast Austin Diner</b>  <b>5p: New MemBears Social Event</b>  <b>7p Dive In Movie - Ed &amp; Marcus Home</b></p>
<p><b>24</b>  <b>Hula Hut: 3825 Lake Austin Blvd., Austin, TX 78703 (512) 476-4852</b>  <b>'Bout Time: 9601 N. I-H 35, Austin, TX 78753 (512) 832-5339</b></p>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<p><b>28</b>  <b>7p: Bears Night Out Hula Hut</b></p>	<p><b>29</b>  <b>7p: Bear Bar Crawl 'Bout Time</b></p>	<b>30</b>

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

2007