



# Bear Briefs

The Newsletter of the Heart Of Texas Bears

P.O. Box 684391, Austin TX 78768-4391

e-mail: [INFO@HEARTOFTEXASBEARS.ORG](mailto:INFO@HEARTOFTEXASBEARS.ORG)

web: [WWW.HEARTOFTEXASBEARS.ORG](http://WWW.HEARTOFTEXASBEARS.ORG)

JUNE 2008

## From the President's Den



Are You Full of PRIDE Yet?

This year, the Heart of Texas Bears are going for the only award we have not received at the annual Pride Parade-The Best Float. We are building it in Leonard Schlueter's garage on a 16 foot flat towed behind a truck. We will have the convertible in front with the winners of the HOT Bears contest.

We welcome your involvement at creating the float as well as coming out to the parade and walking/riding with your fellow club members. I will ask Kip to do a cheer again (as he has done for the last 4 years). With luck, we will bring home the trophy for our case.

The theme of the parade is "Building com-UNITY." Several ideas have been "floated" out there from a "Bear Under Construction" to "3 Bears In a Tub." The group, headed up by Daniel Trevino, gathered at Leonard Schlueter's last weekend and have come up with a fine design. We have already done the base construction (Thank you Kirk Sinclair and John Finley)- but there is a whole lot more to do. I encourage any of you who are interested in helping out to join in the fun this weekend- June 8th and 9th. We will paint, add flags, and do additional work. On the day of Pride we can gather and put the final touches on it. Email Daniel Trevino or me if you want to join in creating the float. Even if you can't, we look forward to seeing you on the day of the parade. Details will come out in the HOT Bear Happenings.

Recently, I have given a lot of thought about reasons for marching in a gay pride parade- and there have been many reasons. 27 years ago, when I was just coming out, I marched as a demonstration against the government for inaction on AIDS. My club then was ACT UP. Later on, I marched to support social involvement with the group "Open Hands Chicago," a club doing meals-on-wheels for People With AIDS (PWAs) for which I

delivered meals to folks every Thursday for 10 years. When I moved to NYC, I marched along side the leather guys- hoping to get a date. I have always been an "out" gay person and never felt outcast for being gay. Frankly, marching for "pride" wasn't much motivation for me.

When I arrived in Austin 4+ years ago, the city's culture of acceptance impressed me. It was not surprising that Austin's parade was small (and newer) compared to other larger cities where tolerance is not as prevalent and gay folks tend to cluster in a specific neighborhood. At the time, I debated if marching with the HOT Bears was worth the effort. Since I was new to the HOT Bears, I decided to go for social reasons. I was not disappointed- and surprised at how much fun I had. Marching with all the members and doing cheers like "show us your belly!" felt good. I realized that perhaps someone will see us and know there is a club of fine men who volunteer their time and do good works- along with having fun while doing it.

I am proud being your president. Come on out and walk with us- just for the fun of it... that's reason enough for me. SHOW US YOUR BELLY! WOOF!

-Peter  
[president@heartoftexasbears.org](mailto: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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# 7th Annual Austin Pride Parade!



## Upcoming Events

### Tuesday, June 3

HOT Bears Planning Meeting. Join the officers for their monthly board meeting at 7:15pm. Your input will help make the Club better!

### Saturday, June 7

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 7

Volunteering at the Texas Pie Kitchen at noon. No experience required. 9702 Ochiltree Drive, Austin. Call Eric at (512) 731-1660 for more information.

### Sunday, June 8

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.

### Friday, June 13

Guerilla Queer Bar from 6pm to 9pm. See [SmokingBanana.com](http://SmokingBanana.com) for details.

### Saturday, June 14

Join us for **Pride Texas 2008** as we celebrate with nine-time Grammy Award nominee Meshell Ndegeocello, opened by Pansy Division. The Festival is from **Noon** till **7pm** at Auditorium Shores, and brings together thousands of Texans,

organizations, artists, musicians and out-of-state visitors for the festival, parade and non-stop parties. [920 West Riverside Drive, Austin, TX, 78704 (512) 974-6700]

### Saturday, June 14

**7th Annual Austin Pride Parade** in Downtown Austin. This years theme is Building CommUNITY. The H.O.T Bears have been in the parade every year, and this one should be another fun one as we "float" the parade route! Watch your email for details, but plan to meet at a new location around **1pm** to help put together this years creation. There is a new award category this year.. "Audience Favorite" and the audience will judge all the entries promptly at **3pm**. So come out early, help get the float ready, and enjoy some BEAR camaraderie! If you can't help setup the float, please show up around **5pm** to march in the parade with us.

Please wear a *Hawaiian shirt* and *hard hat* (if you have one) to help add color to our group. We'll be bringing bottled water and the parade route has been modified and is shorter this year. See the article below more more details. See the Austin Pride Parade website ([AustinPrideParade.org](http://AustinPrideParade.org)) for more information and a map of the route. The parade starts at **8:30pm**.

### Wednesday, June 18

Coffee With Da' Bears! Join your Bear Brothers for some friendship, fun, and caffeine (caffeine is good!). This

month Bear Coffee is at a bear favorite... **Spiderhouse Café**. See you there at 7pm! [2908 Fruth St. Austin, TX 78705 (512) 480-9562].

### Friday — Sunday, June 20 — 22

**Activity Weekend** at the TCC Landsite. Camp out and help work on some improvements for the Landsite.

### Saturday, June 21

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

### Saturday, June 21

Joe Smith and Tom Strauch's Dive-In Movie. From **6pm—2am**. They will provide burgers and dogs, mixers and a beer. We will do the usual potluck and BYOB. The movie will be a surprise. See your Member's Only calendar for address.

### Thursday, June 26

**Bears Night Out**. Dinner this month is in Central Austin at *Green Mesquite BBQ*. Come join us for some lip smackin BBQ. See you at 7pm (Bear Time). [1400 Barton Springs Road, Austin 78704 (512) 479-0485]

### Saturday, July 5

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

## Pride Parade... GET READY!!!!

Well another summer is right around the corner and the weather is heating up. So what better way to celebrate than with a parade! The HOT Bears will once again be making their appearance in the 7th annual Austin Pride Parade on June 14th at 8:30pm. In case you didn't know, we will be starting out from a new location and taking a whole new route. Visit [AustinPrideParade.org](http://AustinPrideParade.org) for more details.

This year we have decided to enter a float so that we can try to win the only award that we have not won....Best Float. Judging the competition from the last couple of years...it will be quite an accomplishment. There have been a lot of creative and fun floats, but I know the Bears can compete with the best of them.

If you would like to help work on the float please contact Daniel Trevino who has stepped forward to lead the float build-

ing and getting everyone organized and where they are needed most, or myself to get all the details. We'll gather at the parade site at **1pm** to finish setting. Thanks also go out to John Finley and Kirk Sinclair for the use of the trailer, and Leonard Schlueter for the use of his garage to build it. With all this teamwork....I think this just could be the year yet!

And of course we need your help by marching in the parade. Marchers will meet at the staging area at **5pm** to get all those last minute details nailed down for the "Audience Favorite" judging at **3pm**, and share in some Bear camaraderie. Be sure to check out the online calendar, and HOT Bear Happenings for details! See you THERE!!!!!!

- Kelly Stephens, [vp@heartoftexasbears.org](mailto:vp@heartoftexasbears.org)



## **HOT Bears Honored at Lone Star 20!**

The Heart of Texas Bears won big time at LoneStar20 over Memorial Day Weekend at the Texas Conference of Clubs. On Sunday, awards were given to commemorate the 20th Memorial Day Weekend event called Lone Star. Ballots were given out earlier this year to the member clubs of the Texas Conference of Clubs- about 200+ ballots were distributed.

After the ballots were counted, we were awarded **Best Bear Club**, **Best Run** (Back to the Woods 1), and **Most Contributing Club**. We also won an award for the most members attending LoneStar 20. It was a great weekend with just about perfect weather. Cocktail parties, games, food, and camaraderie all weekend long. 100+ attended from as far away as Canada and Colorado.

Sad that you missed it? No problem! Come to one of the various runs happening all summer long, and end with "Back to the Woods 4" in October. You can also come to the Activity Weekends- free for HOT Bears members- all year round. Don't have a tent? Price of gas getting to you? No problem- car pool with me and stay in my cabin, the bunkhouse, or the TCC Trailer.

We are breaking ground on the new Medical Shed built in large part by contributions from our members next month. Want to help? email me.

*-Peter*

## **HOT Bear Yahoo Group... are you part of it?**

Did you know that when you joined the HOT Bears, you were also invited to join the HOT Bear Yahoo group? In case you didn't, or perhaps you have changed your email address and need to re-join under the new email, you can contact me and I can make sure you get the invite. The Yahoo group is a great way for members to contact each other or get important information into

the in-boxes of other bear members. Be sure to adjust your email settings once you join so that you can stay informed in the manner that best suits you.

*- Kelly Stephens, vp@heartoftexasbears.org*

## **Theater with Blanchette**

Saw "Dog meets God" last night at Hyde Park Theatre...if you loved Peanuts, ( I don't mean those from ex Pres. Jimmy Carter) see this show, very funny and poignant...until June 14th with I believe "Pay what you can" on Thursdays...only \$15/17 otherwise...quite a few surprises as the Charlie Brown gang (known as CB and his sister, friends Beethoven, Van, Matt, Tricia, Marcy etc. to avoid lawsuits)...lots of laughs and at the end really moving, some in audience cried...especially moving for us the Community of Gay males...Don't forget the theatre July 3rd

for "White People" @ City Theatre or July 9th @ Zach for "Altar Boyz" both have to be ordered direct from theatres ...call them ASAP @ Zach talk to Amanda Adams @ City to Andy Berkovic tell them you want to be with the "Major Vacation" group for seating, if possible

*Thanks,  
Rob Blanchette*

# June

[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>	<b>3</b> 7:15p: HOT Board Meeting	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> 10a: Bears Day Out Breakfast Noon: Texas Pie Kitchen
<b>8</b> 4-8p: Bear Bust The Chain Drive 504 Willow Street Austin, TX 78701 (512) 480-9017	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> 6-9p: Guerilla Queer Bar Location TBA See HOT Bears Web Calendar for more info	<b>14</b> Noon-7pm: <i>Pride Fest</i> on Auditorium Shores 1p: 7 <sup>th</sup> Annual <b>PRIDE PARADE!</b>
<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> 7p: Bear Coffee Spiderhouse Café 2908 Fruth St. Austin, TX, 78705 (512) 480-9562	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> TCC Activity Weekend	<b>21</b> TCC Activity Weekend 10a: 2nd Breakfast 6p: Dive-In Movie
<b>22</b> TCC Activity Weekend	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> 7p: Bears Night Out Green Mesquite BBQ 1400 Barton Springs Road Austin, TX 78704 (512) 479-0485	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>Bears Day Out Breakfast:</b> Trudy's North Star, 8820 Burnet Road, Austin, TX, 78757 (512) 454-1474 <b>Texas Pie Kitchen:</b> Volunteering. No experience needed. 9702 Ochiltree Dr. Details, call Eric (512) 731-1660 <b>2<sup>nd</sup> Breakfast:</b> Bakehouse Restaurant & Bar, 5404 Manchaca Road, Austin, TX 78745 (512) 443-5167				

**7<sup>th</sup> Annual Austin Pride Parade:** Float builders join us at **1pm** and Marchers join us at **5pm** to help setup.

The parade starts at **8:30pm**. It's a new (shorter) route this year and a new starting location. See [AustinPrideParade.org](http://AustinPrideParade.org) for a map.

If you want to help with the float contact the following: **Daniel Trevino:** 461-0359 or **Kelly Stephens:** 369-9650

# 2008