Houston Area Bears Growler

HAB

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Volume 3 Number 8 **August, 1997 Issue** Published by The Houston Area Bears

Monthly Meeting

The July meeting was held at the Brazos River Bottom on Sunday July 13th. Lyle opened the meeting by greeting new members and guests. Tim from Canada was welcomed, as well as Charles.

1.) The meeting began with a moment of silence for HAB member Douglas Lake, who passed away Sunday July 6, 1997 at Park Plaza Hospital. Services were held at Earthman's in the Bellaire Triangle area. Bears attended the wake on Tuesday July 8, including the Triad. Flowers were delivered from the Houston Area Bears, as well as NLA who also had members in attendance.

2.) Bylaws of the HAB were attached to each agenda handed out at the meeting. Lyle read in brief the list of priorities for we strive to abide by, also a copy will be mailed out with each newsletter for our new members to read. We hope each member will read through the list and preserve and promote our group.

ONGOING ACTIVITIES

1.) Bears Dine Out for June 18th was attended by a great group of guys who met at Baba Yega's. Jeff attended this eating frenzy and said the Bears were happily seated outdoors . Where else would a bunch of Bears want to eat? We hope to get together there again in the future. Bears also dined at Papa LaRosa's at Westheimer and closest to Wilcrest. Jeff again attended this one, being his choice, and closer to home. It was well attended, and proved that Bears will eat outside the Loop! Thanks to all in attendance. We will have future dine outs at places Bears suggest we try. Future dine outs are posted on the monthly calendar including Marie Callendar's at Richmond and South Post Oak on Wednesday July 6th.

2.) Guest bartending was mentioned for Sunday June 15th, and was of course well attended. The month of June provided us with a monthly meeting, guest bartending and a Grin n' Bear it contest all in the same Sunday. Thanks to all who pitched in to help out. The Bears bartended again on June 22nd during the Texas Cowgurlz "Gay Pride" themed show. Many Bears attended as well as performed for us in the show, including HAB members Butchie, Leo, Paul, and Jeff, and Dan. Thanks to those who helped out bartending including Scot, Todd, Larry, and of course Jeff. Please contact Jeff if you would like to volunteer to help out.

PAST ACTIVITIES

1.) Bears at the Club Houston pool party was attended by a healthy group of water seekers, who enjoyed half price admission, free food, beer and soda, and all the volleyball you could want. It was an interesting cloudy day that provide us with a lot of heat without all the scorching sunlight. Thanks much to Joe C. who made plans and Stan who pitched in at the last minute. Thanks also to Damien of the Club Houston.

2.) Thanks to all that attended and participated in this years Gay Pride Parade. Jeff put in considerable thought about how to decorate his truck with Bear flags and lanterns. Thanks to all that rode in or walked along the parade route. We were cheered on by many Bear friendly people who will remember that the HAB is a visible group in the community. Thanks to everyone that made this possible, we hope to do it again next year. This was a big first for us and we hope we attracted other Bears who didn't know "we're here, we're queer, and we're the Bears!".

Other Events Of Interest

FUTURE ACTIVITIES

1) The Bears will have another pool party at the Midtowne Spa on Saturday July 19th from 3 to 10 pm. Everyone is welcome to attend another pool party where we will be given half price lockers and treated to free hamburgers from the grill. HAB members are encouraged to invite guests if they call the Bears announcement line and register the names of their guests.

2) Bears will meet for a night at the movies on Wednesday July 16th ,at 7pm at the Cineplex Odeon West Gray and Waugh. It was discussed at the business meeting that we might see "Contact", the new high tech flick starring Jodie Foster. Everyone is invited to attend and bring their friends. We hope that Bears movie night will continue each month and be a fun way to beat the heat and have some fun.

3) Bears wanting to try a Sunday brunch outing will want to check our monthly calendar of events. Suggestions have been made by several members and we hope it will be well attended by Bears who want break bread. Brady's Landing and Shanghai Red's have been mentioned, and although it may cost $15 a person, it is considered a good way to have a wide selection of goodies including some seafood.

4) Jeff and Rick gave further details of organizing a wine tasting party for our group. It will consist of an RSVP list of at least 12 to 18 people, and they will specify in future events the where and how of the situation. This is really a good time for all who attend and we look forward to having one soon.

SPECIAL EVENTS

1) Southern Decadence is again in the newsletter, hoping that all have paid their fees and that last minute shoppers will call and leave their name on the waiting list if they prefer to do so. Every year unexpected events prevent some Bears from attending and that means "good news" for guys that can get away for Labor Day. Please call Lyle if you have any aspirations of attending this years festivities.

2) The Houston Area Bears anniversary party is slated for September 27th at the Spaghetti Warehouse, and is being chaired by John Dye. A menu will appear in your mailbox instructing you on the fees and selections available. A ballot for awards is included in this month's newsletter and it is strongly recommended that you fill one out and get it back to a Triad member or John. It is your responsibility to make arrangements for your meal, and to contact John if you do not receive your menu in the mail by the beginning of September. A buffet will not be available.

ONGOING EVENTS

1) Houston Area Bear pins and patches are available from Jeff for a reasonable price. Many pins are dispensed during Labor Day weekend and in the upcoming cooler months so we hope you will reserve your fair share now. Get them while their hot.

2) Membership renewal letters are mailed 30 days in advance and we hope that your renewal doesn't cross the mail when we go to print the newsletter, but stuff happens. If you ever miss receiving your newsletter, please call a Triad member and tell them, or pick one up at the business meeting before we run out.

3) The trophy case at the Venture N is full of mementos that are fun to look at. We thought we made a good first attempt at putting things on display and we hope it stimulates more interest in our club from other clubs that need to see some visibility from the HAB. Anyone with something they'd think would be of interest in the case should talk with a Triad member. Stan and Jeff worked together putting things on the shelves and we've got a few ideas for it's next update, how 'bout you?

ITEMS FROM THE FLOOR

1) John Mata announced that there had been confusion regarding his title in the recent Court agenda. Fortunately rival members came to their senses and everything has been clarified by the decision makers in the group. Anita rules!

2) Mitch mentioned that an honorary membership should be handed out from the Houston Area Bears. Since details are being hammered out now I'm gonna keep this one under my lid.

3) Mitch mentioned that Bears may want to attend Miller OUTdoor Theatres production of "42nd Street" on Saturday July 26th at 830 pm. Mitch suggested Bears bring a blanket and a buddy and perhaps meet others up on the hill. Sounds like lot's of Summer fun!

4) Anita Mann held her monthly Grin n' Bear it contest July 20th at the Venture N. The Bubble Fluffer announced to the newsletter that Ted S. was the big winner and will possibly judge the August contest. Congratulations Ted, and good luck to the next group of contestants.

5) HAB member David from Beaumont said that he and his companion went to St. Louis and visited the

Bear bar called the Eagle. He stated they were treated like royalty when they mentioned they were HAB members. Let's hope St. Louis Bears will come and visit us soon and receive the same royal treatment.

6) Jim Kreiling who is a very good friend of the HAB, mentioned there would be a fundraiser for the Bering Foundation at Stages Theatre on August 16th for the matinee show. Half price tickets are $15 and we hope to see you there.

7) HAB member Larry presented some photographs of the Gay Pride Parade that included shots of our entry in the parade. We hope to display some in the trophy case as soon as we can .

CLOSING

1) Door prizes were drawn for the meeting and a half price admission was paid for the pool party at the Midtowne for July 19th.

RELEVANT EVENTS OTHER THAN HAB

A.) HCC Show Sun. 7/13 VN LUEY fundraiser

B.) Grin n' Bear it Contest 7/20 VN 8pm

C.) Cowgurlz Show "After Garden Party" 7/27 8pm VN

D.) Denim Party 7/27 BRB

E.) Court Fundraiser,(Milam House) Fri. 8/1 VN 9pm

F.) "Down the Tubes" Contest Sun. 8/3 BriarPatch 8pm

In Memory of Doug Lake

Houston Area Bear Doug Lake passed away Sunday July 6,1997 at Park Plaza Hospital. Wake services were held at Earthman's Bellaire location with members in attendance from HAB, NLA, and other individuals as well. The HAB sent flowers in our club name and the entire Triad attended Doug's wake.

Doug's parents would like to thank the members for the flowers that were delivered. Also an HAB pin was placed on Doug's collar by Jeff. Doug will be thoughtfully remembered for his help bartending for our club and the "masochism tango" he performed with Tiffany during a LUEY fundraiser in March. We will put a picture of him in the trophy case for members who can't place the name with a face. He will be missed.

Miss Firecracker

Anita Mann presented the "Miss Firecracker" contest at the Venture N on Friday July 4th at 10 pm. The contestants were in hot pursuit of a title to be reckoned with and the competition was explosive. Believe it or not, one Houston Area Bear was triumphant in winning the coveted award. Our own Bubbles, the Bear fluffer took the evening spotlight into new heights, and brought home the title. Congratulations to all the Bears who attended and enjoyed the entertainment.

Anniversary Dinner

Make your selections for Bear awards now and please return your form to a Triad member or John Dye. A menu is included in this newsletter and it is inclusive of your dinner,drink,tax,tip, and all expenses related to the awards and the cake plus decorating expenses. Sounds like a real bargain for all you'll be able to enjoy. We hope Bears will keep John Dye up to date on their choices for awards and dinner including your guest list. Joe C. is in charge of decorating the VN for the after dinner party and we hope many will volunteer to help him . If you would like to assist John please call him and and let him know that your interested, ditto with Joe.

Hear Ye! Hear Ye!

In case you hadn't heard Tim Curtis is asking interested Bears to try a massage for a nominal fee of $20 that includes a coupon for another visit. He needs to massage 50 people to get certified and hopes that you will come to his location in the Sharpstown area and let him do his magic. Good luck Tim, we know you will be a terrific masseuse.

Are You Bear Enough?

A new guy in town walks into a bar and reads a sign that hangs over the bar:

"FREE BEER... FREE BEER FOR THE PERSON WHO CAN PASS THE TEST!"

So the guy asks the bartender what the test is.

Bartender: "Well, first you have to drink that whole gallon of pepper tequila, the WHOLE thing at once AND, you can't make a face while doing it. Second, there's a bear out back with a sore tooth...you have to remove it with your bare hands. Third, there's a woman up-stairs who's never had an orgasm. You gotta make things right for her.

Man: Well, as much as I would love free beer, I won't do it. You have to be nuts to drink a gallon of pepper tequila and they get crazier from there! .....

Well, as time goes on and the man drinks quite a few, he asks, "Wherez zat teeqeelah?"

He grabs the gallon of tequila with both hands, and downs it with a big slurp and tears streaming down his face. Next he staggers out back and soon all the people inside hear the most frightening roaring and thumping, then silence. The man staggers back into the bar, his shirt ripped and big scratches all over his body.

"Now" he says "Where's that woman with the sore tooth?"

Food Chain

A mosquito was buzzing down the river and a salmon swimming in the river below saw him and thought "If I wait for the mosquito to fly down river I can jump up and eat him for my lunch".

Unbeknownst to the salmon a big bear was sitting on the river bank and he also saw the mosquito; he thought "If I wait for the mosquito to fly down river, the salmon will jump up to eat him and I can reach out my paw and catch the salmon for my dinner".

Unbeknownst to the big bear a hunter was on the opposite bank of the river and he also saw the mosquito; he thought "If I wait for the mosquito to fly down river, the salmon will jump up to eat him, the bear will reach out his paw and catch him and I will roll over and shoot the bear as a trophy".

Unbeknownst to the hunter a mouse was sitting beside him and he also saw the mosquito; he thought "If I wait for the mosquito to fly down river, the salmon will jump up to eat him, the bear will reach out his paw and catch him, the hunter will roll over and shoot the bear and I will grab the sandwich that falls out of his pocket".

Unbeknownst to the mouse a cat was hiding in the bushes and he also saw the mosquito; he thought "If I wait for the mosquito to fly down river, the salmon will jump up to eat him, the bear will reach out his paw and catch him, the hunter will roll over and shoot the bear, the mouse will grab the sandwich from the hunter's pocket and I will jump on the mouse".

So the mosquito flew down river; the salmon leaped up and caught the fly; the big bear reached out his paw and caught the salmon; the hunter rolled over and shot the bear; the mouse grabbed the sandwich from the hunter's pocket; and the cat jumped, missed and fell into the river.

The moral of the story being you need a lot of foreplay to get a wet pussy.

August 1997

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
HAB	**E-mail** HouAreaBrz@aol.com **Website:** http:/members.aol.com/houbears/index.html	**Houston Area Bears** **P.O. Box 66443** **Houston, TX 77266** **713-867-9123**			1	2
3	4 Ron M.	5	6 **Bears Dine Out** Marie Callendar's Richmond @ Post Oak	7 David L.	8	9 **Monthly Social** Venture-N 9 p.m. Topside bar
10 **General Meeting** 4:00p.m. Brazos River Bottom	11 Robert R. James A.	12	13 **Bears Movie Night Out** **6:45p.m. Cineplex** **Oedon**	14	15	16 **Stages Theatre** **Benefit for Bering** **$15 Matinee 2 p.m.**
17 **Bartending** Venture-N 6:00p.m. Bob R. **Grin'N Bear It** contest ~~8:00p.m.~~ 9:00p.m.	18	19	20 **Bears Dine Out** Yidizlar, Middle East 3419 Kirby by Office Depot	21	22	23
24 **Bartending** Venture-N 6:00p.m. Cowgurlz Show 8:00 p.m.	25 Doug L.	26 Phealan C.	27	28 Tom F.	29 Southern Decadence	30 31

September 1997

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3 **Bears Dine Out** Barnaby's Fairview St. 7:00p.m.	4	5	6
7 **Brunch** **Meas Grill** **1971 West Gray** **10:45 a.m. $15.00 ea.**	8	9	10 **Bears Movie Night** **Cineplex Odeon** **West Gray & Waugh** **6:45 p.m.**	11	12	13 **Monthly Social** Venture-N 9 p.m. Topside bar
14 **General Meeting** 4:00p.m. Brazos River Bottom	15	16	17 **Bears Movie Night Out** **(To be announced)**	18	19	20 **Stages Theatre** **Benefit for Bering** **$15 Matinee 2 p.m.**
21 **Bartending** Venture-N 6:00p.m. **Grin'N Bear It** contest ~~8:00p.m.~~ 9:00p.m.	22	23	24 **Bears Dine Out** Yidizlar, Middle East 3419 Kirby by Office Depot	25	26	27 **Anniversary Party** **Spagetti Warehouse** **6:45p.m.** **VN @ 8:45p.m.**
28 **Bartending** Venture-N 6:00p.m. Cowgurlz Show 8:00 p.m.	29	30	HAB	**Houston Area Bears** **P.O. Box 66443** **Houston, TX 77266** **713-867-9123**	**E-mail** HouAreaBrz@aol.com **Website:** http:/members.aol.com/ houbears/index.html	

HOUSTON AREA BEARS 1997 AWARDS BALLOT

Please fill in the name/names of the member(s) you think fit the description of the award. Please complete as many as you can. Please return your ballot immediately after the meeting for it to be considered in the count.

ALL-AMERICAN BEAR AWARD _____
Bear that most resembles a tight end!

WINNIE THE POOH AWARD _____
Bear with his head in the clouds and has a good, heart!

MOST CUDDLY BEAR AWARD _____
Bear that gives the best hugs!

PADDINGTON BEAR AWARD _____
Bear that always seems to be lost or disorganized.

TEDDY RUXSPIN AWARD _____
Bear that talks the most, But always listens to you .

BALOO THE BEAR AWARD _____
Bear that best furnishes the "bear" necessities of life.

YOGI BEAR AWARD _____
Bear that provides comic relief in a serious situation

BOOBOO BEAR AWARD _____
Bear that provides the best advice

BERENSTEIN BEAR AWARD _____
Best bear family (couple or more)

BLACK BEAR AWARD _____
Bear with the blackest beard

GRIZZLEY BEAR AWARD _____
Bear with the most hairy shoulders

THE HOBBIT AWARD _____
Bear or bears that provide warmth, comfort, & full bellies

THE WHITE RABBIT AWARD _____
The bear that is always late !

I THINK THAT _____ SHOULD GET AN AWARD

BECAUSE OR FOR: _____

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Volume 3 Number 9 **September, 1997 Issue** Published by The Houston Area Bears

Monthly Meeting

The August meeting was held at the Brazos River Bottom on Sunday August 10th, at 4pm. Lyle opened the meeting by greeting new members and guests.

Guests included Mark, Dell, Mike, and one other Mark. All guests were welcomed by the attending members. Charles also attended as a return guest.

The meeting began with the recognition of a Thank You note received from Doug Lake's parents. Thanks to all members who spoke fondly of Doug, and thanks to the members for having a flower arrangement sent in the club's name.

Ongoing Events

1) The dine out at Marie Callendar's was attended by a small group of Bears due in part to the late delivery of the GROWLER. This was due in part to two circumstances. One being that Stan was out of state on vacation, and the other was because Paul moved into a new home. We appreciate your patience as we pull ourselves together before the next newsletter is mailed out. Thanks to Joe C. who always works diligently to see that your newsletter arrives collated, stapled, stamped, labeled, and delivered on time. Thanks to Paul for his unending dedication to producing such a good looking newsletter for us.

2) There will be several changes on the September monthly calendar. This is due in part to the restart of HCC meetings on the third Wednesday of the month. There were also some minor mistakes of duplication corrected on the September calendar. Please check this month's September calendar and refer to it for future reference of this month's events. The agenda has only minor variations but please make note of dine outs and movie nights that might have changed

Future Events

1) The next Bears movie will be Wednesday 8/13 as of the last business meeting. Bears will meet at Cineplex Odeon at 6:45pm and decide which movie to go and see.

2) The first Bears Sunday Brunch will be at Mesa Grill at 1971 West Gray on September 7th. Hopefully all interested Bears will show up by 10:45am so we can be seated together and enjoy all the goodies. Price is $15.00 per person.

3) Rick and Jeff are planning an October Wine Tasting Party which will be an RSVP of 12 to 18 people with a casual atmosphere. This will be just in time for the Holiday gift giving season. Wines usually range around $20 a bottle, and the opened samples are left behind for all to finish off after the party host departs.

Special Events

1) Southern Decadence is scheduled to take off this Labor Day weekend, and plans are being finalized to every last detail. Lyle and Bill N., as well as Jeff have worked out many details that will make this weekend the party of the year.We hope to see lots of pictures and hear lots of stories when the guys get back from New Orleans decadent French Quarter.

2) Our 3rd Anniversary Party is in the air and we hope everyone has made an attempt to fill out their menu and make payment to the HAB. There are many bears attending this years party and we hope you will invite others that would be interested. The party begins at the Spaghetti Warehouse at 6:45pm but will soon move over to the Venture N at 8:45 for more fun. Awards will be presented at both locations and volunteers are needed to help out with the decorating for the after party at the VN. Please contact Joe C. for more details. Your $15 meal ticket includes your dinner selection, salad, drink, tax, tip, and cost associated with awards and decorations. John tells me that the cake is being catered by Larry this year and we look forward to sampling it. The deadline for the awards ballot will be the September Business meeting. Please make an attempt to return one to the Triad or to John Dye.

Things are being worked out so that the meal markers that identify your chosen place at the table will alert your wait person to your dinner selection. There will be another raffle at the party at the VN so members can luckily take home one of many Bear baskets that contain gift certificates from Leather Forever, massages,tanning certificates, and other goodies.

John Dye has proposed to do the best he can to make dinner arrangements for anyone that contacts him by as late as September 20th. Please don't wait until the last minute. The salad dressing choice will be either Italian or dry but actually John says that your salad dressing can be a BYOB affair if you prefer something else.

Ongoing Events

1) The subject of our Christmas Party was brought up before the members and Barry Mac volunteered to help with the event. It is an event that takes a combined effort of several individuals and we hope to see a number of Bears come forward to help out with the event. Your suggestions will be appreciated as we get closer to this event.

2) Jeff says that pins and patches are available for interested members. As we get closer to cooler weather many pins may need to be in your pocket. Please get them while they are available.

3) Membership renewals are the responsibility of the individual member as every attempt is made to notify Bears 30 days in advance of your anniversary with the club. Members will be encouraged to renew when their dues are pending and we are still experiencing growing pains in the member renewal department. If for any reason you do not receive your newsletter please let us know so we can get another copy to you. We wouldn't intentionally stop your subscription even if thought you needed to renew, it's just a matter of us updating our records as we build a roster of members from the extensive list that Mitch has on his program. Mailing lists are being updated now so please let us know if you have any address changes.

4) The Houston Council of Clubs will again have meetings the third Wednesday of each month at 8pm with the location being on a rotating basis starting in August at the Venture N. An alternate volunteer was needed for the Triad and Lloyd W. volunteered to attend the meetings. The deadline for the pin contest for the 25th Anniversary of LUEY is September 2nd and all entries must be mailed to the BRB to the attention of HCC-pin contest. We hope everyone in the HAB makes a combined effort to put their best paw forward in getting LUEY fund raisers and meetings rolling towards a successful LUEY weekend in February. It takes a lot of planning and volunteerism to do what we did last year , and this year is even more important. If you have any ideas on what to do this year for LUEY please contact a Triad member and let them know your thoughts. Bob B. has mentioned that the HCC is looking for memorabilia from past LUEY's going back all 25 years. If you have any old LUEY run pins, photographs or programs, please make them known so HCC can make plans for them. Bears will play an important role for the weekend so it's important to step forward and do what you can.

5) The trophy case at the BRB was relinquished to another club. It was generally thought that we should concentrate our efforts on the trophy case at the VN and make that our showpiece before we attempt to take on another display case. If you have any memorabilia for the trophy case at the VN please see the Triad and let them know if you want your item to be returned or to become part of Bear archives.

Last Call For Award Ballots

Thanks to all of you who passed in your ballots for this years 3rd Anniversary . Every vote makes a difference to the person you think is the most appropriate for the title. If you can bring your ballot to any event in September a Triad member or John Dye will gladly accept your votes. There is still plenty of time for you to vote and be a part of making someone smile for miles. Remember there is a comment space at the bottom of your ballot that is for your suggestions on who to surprise with a campy, funny, or maybe well deserved recognition. The Triad is also choosing awards for notable and helpful people at this years ceremony. You can always make your suggestions heard if you tell others what you think. There are some terrific individuals that bear more than their fare share of the work in this club, let's give them the recognition they've earned. VOTE.

Trick Bears, or Treat Bears!

Halloween approaches on a long weekend this year, and we are all looking forward to it. One thing we will have to discuss at the next meeting is members interested in going on the Haunted House tour throughout the Venture-N area. It really can be a lot of fun for the participants and we have had two successful turn outs for the past two years that Tim C. had organized. Tim is busy this season and it would be in our best interest to designate someone else to set the date and time we would meet at the VN prior to the tour. It's really something simple to do and meaningful for all who go. We look forward to hearing from you at the next meeting.

Renaissance Festival - Medieval Bears

As cooler weather approaches many Bears may be interested in a Renaissance Festival journey. This might be more easily accomplished by getting someone to take care of a few details including renting a mini bus/club van type vehicle so all can take the trip together. The dates are from October 4th until November 16th on Saturdays and Sundays and it is open 9am until Dusk.

Perhaps we will want to wait until the second Saturday of November....leave at noon... from the Venture N parking lot,arrive there at 2ish and stay until 6ish.. then come back to the VN around 8ish for the Bears Social. If you order tickets in advance they are $10 rather than $15. Any suggestions will be considered and we hope you have lots of them at the September meeting. Maybe we could provide a package deal, ticket and transport for a better price. Let's see what you all want and decide then.

Thankful Bears & Jingle Bears!

John Mata has announced that he will again host a Thanksgiving Day dinner at the Venture N for PWA's on that very night at 6pm. Last year we all pitched in to help and it was a feast for fit for an Empress, if not a few bears . A mini comedy revue will entertain the troops around 8pm . We hope many will help so it will be easier for all.

Jerry & Chris have graciously offered the use of their home for the Christmas Party. Barry Mac has offered to chair the event, and it sounds like a great combination.

Two Lady Bears, Dark and Fair

TIFFANY AND THE CUNTESSA?

Believe it or not the next big LUEY fund raiser is being co-hosted by our new honorary member Tiffany, and her partner in lust Cuntessa Vanessa Digressa.

It's September 14th, after out next business meeting and closets are being cleaned out now for your enjoyment. If you've ever seen a show with Tiffany in it, remember, this girl will do anything on stage for money.

Sell That Fur!

Anita Mann has announced that she will again host the 4th Annual Bear Auction at the Venture N on the same night in October as the Bears Social. This is a very popular event with the club and it is partly due to the fact, that all money raised, goes to the Pet Patrol. See your calendar of events for October and keep this one on your agenda. Last year more than 21 Bears were auctioned off with over $1100 raised for this terrific group of volunteers. This has become a hugely successful fund raiser that has given the community a visible respect for the Bear movement here and elsewhere. You won't want to miss this one!

We Need A Few Good Bears to Contribute

by Paul Pruitt

In our never ending quest to provide entertainment as well as information, we are on the hunt for a stock of jokes and funny stories that may be of interest to the bear community. Actually, even if it isn't bear related, but just plain funny, there is still a good chance of having your submission published. Each item we receive will be flowed into a two column text block just like the one that you are reading right now. That way, we can gage how much space the item will occupy. The items will then be placed on file and used as needed to fill gaps between regular articles concerning Houston Area Bear activities. If you send in a story or joke and do not see it in the next newsletter, be patient! Eventually, it will appear! Items submitted will automatically be credited by name in a "by line" to the right of the story title such as you see above this article - unless you specifically request that your name be left off. The "by line" will give you credit for submitting the item, we understand that you may not necessarily have originated the copy yourself. And we don't care. You can send in your item by E-mail directly to me at "ppruitt@characters.com" This is a private mailbox that I have at work and it is secured with a password. Our systems lady had me enter the password myself, even she does not know it! You can also send items to my address at 5758 Farwell, Houston, Texas, 77035. Please type your copy, or send it in on a floppy disc. Hand written copy can not be scanned for optical character recognition, and will not be considered. Sorry. Thanks in advance for any item that you may wish to submit, this gets more of us involved in a contribution process, and reflects the personality of the club as a whole. By the way, do you know the hardest part about eating rabbit? Get'n past them kick'n little legs!

BY-LAWS

PURPOSE: TO PROMOTE EDUCATION, CAMARADERIE, BROTHERHOOD AND SOCIAL FAMILIARITY OF AND FOR THE BEAR COMMUNITY.

MEMBERSHIP: OPEN TO ANY INDIVIDUAL WHO EXHIBITS QUALITIES OF, OR IS A PROFESSED URSAPHILE (BEAR LOVER).

A MEMBER'S ACCEPTANCE OR DENIAL SHALL BE ON THE SCRUTINY OF THE DEN OF ACTIVE MEMBERS.

OFFICERS: ALL GOVERNING OF THE DEN SHALL BE DONE BY A TRIAD OF ACTIVE MEMBERS WHO SHALL BE ELECTED AND /OR RE-ELECTED ONCE A YEAR BY A VOTE OF THE DEN OF ACTIVE MEMBERS (IN PERSON OR BY PROXY).

MEETINGS: DEN MEETINGS SHALL BE HELD ONCE A MONTH. MEMBERS ARE ENCOURAGED, BUT NOT REQUIRED, TO ATTEND.

EXCEPTION: VOTING FOR TRIAD MEMBERS.

DUES: ACTIVE MEMBER STATUS: $20.00 YEARLY.

ASSOCIATE MEMBER STATUS: (NON-VOTING) $10.00 YEARLY.

Houston Area Bears

HOUSTON AREA BEARS

AUGUST 10, 1997 MEETING AGENDA

1.OPENING - Greeting New Members and Guest

2. ON GOING ACTIVITIES *

A. Dine out:

1. Past: Wed. 7/23 Pappa,s BBQ & Wed 8/6 Marie Callendars

2. Future: Wed. 8/20 Yidizlar 7PM & Wed. 9/3 Barnaby's 7PM

B. Guest Bartending:

1. Past: Sun 7/17 & Sun 7/24 - VENTURE - N

2. Future: Sun 8/17 & Sun 7/24 - 6PM - VENTURE - N

3.PAST ACTIVITIES *

A. Bears at the Club Baths Sat 7/19 Midtown SPA

B. Bear Movie Night, 7/16 Cineplex Odeon

4. FUTURE ACTIVITIES

A. Bear Movie Night, 8/13 Cineplex Odeon 6:45PM West Gray @ Waugh

B. Sunday Brunch Sep 7 10:45AM Mesa Grill 1971 W. Gray

C. Wine Tasting in October

5.SPECIAL EVENTS

A Southern Decadence 8/29 - 9/1 New Orleans

B. HAB Anniversary Party - 9/27 - Spaghetti Warehouse/ VENTURE-N - John D.

1. Awards 2. Menu Order Form ....attached to Agenda...turn in at meeting

C. HAB Christmas Party

6. ON GOING EVENTS

A. HAB Pins & Patches are available...see Jeff at end of meeting

B. Membership Renewal & Mailing List

C. HCC...HAB member Alternate and '98 LUEY Pin Design Deadline

7. ITEMS FROM THE FLOOR

8. CLOSING

9. EVENTS OF INTEREST OTHER THAN HAB

A. HCC Show Sun 8/10 8PM - VENTURE - N - Fund Raiser for LUEY Weekend

B. Anita Mann's GRIN & BEAR IT Contest Sun 8/17 9PM VENTURE-N

C. Fur, Flesh & Fantasy - TBA

D. Cowgurlz Show 8/24 8PM Venture-N

E. Stages Theater Benefit for Bering 8/16 2PM $15.00 Matinee

Houston Area Bears Growler

HAB

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Volume 3 Number 10 **October, 1997 Issue** Published by The Houston Area Bears

Monthly Meeting

The September meeting of the Houston Area Bears was held Sunday the 14th at the Brazos River Bottom. Jeff recognized new member and guests,later than expected but they included Chris, Richard, Rene, and possibly one other Jeff.

Past bartending efforts are applauded and thanks go to those that helped out Thanks to Todd B.,Scot M.,Stan and Jeff for all their hard work.

Past dine outs at Yididlizar and Baba Yega's (Barnaby's was closed that night ,due to plumbing problems) were a success because of those that attended.Thank you and we hope to see more of you at future dine outs. Next dine out scheduled for October 1st will be at Niko Niko's, which is inexpensive and very tasty. Bear's movie night on September 10th was attended by a small group who thoroughly enjoyed the likes of G.I.Jane.

Sunday Brunch on September 7th was attended solely by Mitch & Ken, who completely enjoyed it. The next Sunday Brunch will have to be better attended so let's hear from you on this, and put this idea on ice for the time being

Southern Hospitality

When the meeting was opened, plans were described for next years trip to Southern Decadence. With all the good things we've heard about this year's trip to New Orleans, plans will again be made to attend the festivities again next year. Special thanks are given to Bill N., Joe C., and Lyle and Jeff for all the arrangements that were prepared for this year's event. Hopefully everyone will be able to make plans to travel with us next Labor Day Weekend, if they can. We encourage more members to volunteer to help out with next years event. members need to suggest other trips to nearby locations that groups would like to attend.

When events like this are organized we hope everyone recognizes all the work that goes into making airline reservations, guest house accommodations, and transportation to and from the airport in Houston and in New Orleans.

There was also a pizza party and food and drinks supplied in each room. Jeff made party favors for each attending guest. All of these items became a bargain priced weekend at New Orleans for Labor Day Weekend. It took a lot of diligent work on the part of just a few members to make such a big success.

Imagine what we can do in the future if more members volunteer and get involved in upcoming events.

Peel Me A Grape Fur Face!

Wine tasting is scheduled to take place on Octobear 18th at 7:30 at Rick & Jeff's.

This is an RSVP type party, because it is better to have a certain number of people (between 15 and 20) then have 30 people not taste everything presented. This is a welcome addition to future Holiday gift giving, and really fun for the participants. Many of the libation's presented may spill over

into palates larger than your own!

Every wine presented may remind you it's time to pick up the phone and invite that very special Bear over for dinner. Each bouquet presented may be lingered over as the party host departs and let's the Bears finish up the lovelies.

Pick up the phone and let Jeff know how many are coming. We hope lot's of members will give it a try and make this a tradition in our club. Bears that have attended previous parties have given it rave reviews, and hey, you may even get a chance to see Rick while he's in town. Remember to give Jeff a call even on short notice so he can make room for you. They'd love to see ya.

Call now!

OctoBEAR Booooo!

Each year around this time, Bears get together for an evening of fun with a walk through the Haunted Houses surrounding the Venture N. It's easy to attend, just show up. When will it be held? Check the Bears Announcement line 713 867 9123. Boy Robert has volunteered to host this year's event which is simply a gathering of Bears from the Venture N, that Venture Out for a night of fright and fun. There will be plenty of room for all, and just what color do you think Robert's hair will be that night? Come on down and find out.

OctoBEAR Auction

Anita Mann's popular fund raiser for the Pet Patrol is coming up early this month. Saturday, Octobear 18th is a week after our regular monthly social at the Venture-N and a perfect time for the Bear Auction. You will be able to bid and purchase bear meat for your very own. Last year more than 21 Bears were auctioned off with over $1100. raised for this terrific charity. This has become a hugely successful fund raiser that has given the community a visible respect for the Bear movement here and else where. Don't miss it!

My True Love Gave To ME...

The HAB Christmas Party will be on the second Sunday (14th) of December, which replaces our business meeting when it has traditionally been. The event will be organized by Barry Mac and will be held at Jerry S. house, it was decided by all. The details for now include the members being responsible for side dishes and revolving around a main dish provided by the club. More details forthcoming.

The More, The Merrier!

The 23rd Annual Texas Renaissance Festival will be held Saturdays & Sundays Octobear 4th until November 16th from 9am until Dusk. We look forward to getting a group together for this event, and Scot M. was kind enough to volunteer for David M., (i hope he doesn't mind) but I have a feeling they'll work together on this one. If you have any comments or suggestions please call David or Scot with your suggestions. If you have a question please leave your name and phone number on the Bears announcement line and someone will get back with you.713 867 9123. This will be great opportunity for Bears to get in touch with nature and see some cute guys in tights. I hope we will get a sizable group together because as Robin Hood would say "the more the merrier!"

Want more info? Here it is...

Directions to the site: take I-45 N to Hwy 105 in Conroe and go left. When you reach Plantersville turn left on FM 1774 and go 6 miles to the festival site. For more information call 1-800-458-3435 or consult website <www.texrenfest.com> Also check the weather before you leave toll free 1-888-329-1372. Did you know you can order tickets by phone at 1-800-451-9198 and save $$ on the gate admission. Another bit of advice, there is a bus shuttle from Willowbrook Mall (Hwy 249 & FM 1960) that will take you there every 30 minutes from 8am ' til 2pm for about $3.00. Buses depart from the festival every 30 min. until 7pm and bring you back to Willowbrook Mall.

Thanks A Lot!

Let's take a few minutes to thank a few people who have been involved in the HAB 3rd Anniversary Celebration. First of all John Dye has made this event a success now for 2 years in a row. He dedicates a lot of time ,effort, and expense including road miles, to pull together what we know as dinner with a bunch of light-hearted awards and surprises, and a few cocktail parties. Thank you John Dye, your hard work has not gone unnoticed . Thanks to Paul P. who worked behind the scenes to set up a Bear logo design that appears on the certificates distributed at the Spaghetti Warehouse. Paul also put together name tags for all the guests so we could put a name to a face this year, great idea! John's friend Jim put the logo certificates together and we thank him also, Thanks Jim!

Thanks to Joe C. who never ceases to amaze us with his decorating and organizing abilities at the Venture N festivities. Many thanks to those who showed up to decorate along with us at the Venture N Saturday morning including Jeff & Stan who know the way to use a hammer and a staple gun. Thanks to David M. who volunteered to help recruit gift certificates and other surprises for the bear baskets. Stan was happy to wrap them together. Thanks to Larry who baked the cakes this year, that's a lot of work too. Some Bears in this short mention need to be thanked twice or even three times. Let's not forget the following vendors that donated items for our raffle: Flash Printing (Tim & John), Leather Forever (Steve), Half Price Books, The Magic Cauldron, Leather by Boots, Basic Brothers (Ken Claude), Midtowne Spa, and Club Houston.

T-shirts, Pins, Patches!

We have new black and grey T shirts available for our members and friends. They are $15. ea. and available in all sizes including 2XL and 3XL. We suggest you might try one size larger than you normally buy. These T-shirts are available through the Bears announcement line 713 867 9123 or ask any Triad member. They look great in the dark of night as well as the light of day. Put your order in early and avoid the seasonal crowds.

Pins and Patches are available from Jeff C. and are great ice breakers during the upcoming cool front. We know you will want to have 2 or 3 in your pocket when it gets to the festive Holidays, so let Jeff know what you want. Patches come in different sizes, 7 and 9 inches, check out the ones in our trophy case.

Houston Council of Clubs

The next meeting of HCC will be Wednesday Octobear 15th at the Venture-N at 8pm. If you didn't already know Bob Bouton and Chris were re-elected to office, and that really came as no surprise. Next HCC LUEY fund raiser will be Sunday November 9th, and will be hosted by the Misfits, who will travel from behind the bar to the front of the stage for their performance. Bartender volunteers will take up the slack for HCC and all tips will go to HCC for LUEY. The September 14th Show hosted by Tiffany & Cuntessa played to a tough crowd that had partied earlier at Mary's and wasn't in the mood for a show. Jeff and Tiffany did alright for themselves with their fun loving "Cattle Call" review, and the show went on besides the audience of misfits. Jackie Thorne did a number that was ill received, and Cuntessa and Kneel did a Reba duet that had a lukewarm response. Stan also did a number that at least got some recognition from the crowd. Wish more Bears had been there to cheer us on, it would have made all the difference.

Membership Directories...Please BEAR With Us!

We hope you have waited long enough for a new membership directory. Each time it has been mentioned at the business meeting it has been received with many groans.Lyle had it partially loaded on his computer and it was lost, but we hope to have them by the Anniversary Party. Mitch's computer program has been incompatible with Lyle's program and the details of adding spouses, renewal dates, and birthdays has slowed down the process. We hope you understand that we want to make them available a.s.a.p. Please Bear with us a little longer, we're almost there.

Bears Behaving Badly

Jeff addressed the members present at the business meeting about something that has been discussed in other Bears Clubs and recently in American Bear magazine. National events that draw hundreds of people from across the country seem to bring the best out for the majority of the guests, but what happens when a few people cross the line of proper etiquette in public places? Bear Pride in Chicago had to address some uncomfortable issues when the host hotel objected to men French kissing and groping each others crotch in the hotel lobby! When the defense was made that "straights get away with anything " the argument seemed to be that there were no straights exhibiting this behavior in the hotel lobby. The proper place for this activity would have been in the hotel room. Besides this instance, members attending Bear Pride were subjected to Security guards at the host hotel that were constantly hit on, not to mention a Father of the Bride at a wedding reception in the hotel. Bear Pride is not welcome back at that hotel ever again.

Similar situations in Dallas hotel elevators and other public places, including the swimming pool, have resulted in host hotel's asking large groups of guests to pack their bags and leave. We have to remember we are infringing on the rights of hotel guests, employees, and other club members when we behave badly in public. This is easy to remedy if we use the rules layed down by our grandparents, "Basic Common Sense". The idea is to have a good time when we are together, but to remember that when we travel as a group we are responsible for other people riding on the same ticket. When one individual acts inappropriately, others may be typecast as from the same club, group, or geographic location.

So what are your views on the subject? What do you think is acceptable for public displays of affection? How far can a member of your group go before you want to start blowing whistles? It's time to bring the subject up now before "we" as a group get into a situation that is out of control. Upcoming events may move us into the spotlight more than ever before. We have nothing to fear unless we are giving other groups a reason to put us under a microscope. When you think about all of us riding in the same boat, what's your position?

Congratulations!

The Houston Area Bears and it's Triad congratulate the award winners from this years 3rd anniversary party. Here is an incomplete list of most of the winners.

TRIAD AWARDS

Special Recognition - Anita Mann
Official Bears Den - Venture N
Party Extraordinere' - John Dye
Extra/Extra newsletter - Paul P.
Extra/Extra newsletter - Joe C.
Certificate of Appreciation - Mitch F.
Certificate of Appreciation - David M.
Certificate of Appreciation - Michael the bartender
Certificate of Appreciation - Bill W.
Certificate of Appreciation - Scot M.
Certificate of Appreciation - Joe C.
Certificate of Appreciation - Brazos River Bottom
Certificate of Appreciation - Texas Cowgurlz
Award for Being BOB - Bob Bouton

AWARDS by John Dye for the HAB

Cocktail Party Award - PWA Holiday Fund
Cocktail Party Award - Bexar County Bears
Cocktail Party Award - NLA
Cocktail Party Award - Colt 45's

AWARDS by members ballot

All-American Bear (tight end) Steve S.
Winnie the Pooh (good heart) John Dye
Most Cuddly (best hugs) Scot M.
Paddington Bear (disorganized) John Dye
Baloo the Bear (bear necessities) Barry Mac
BooBoo Bear (best advice) Stan
Berenstein Bears (trio) ..tie.. Lyle,Bill,James & Jeff,Rick,Robert
Black Bear (blackest beard) David M.
Grizzly Bear (hairy shoulders) Lyle
Hobbit Award(warmth/comfort) John Mata
White Rabbit (always late) John Dye

October 1997

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
HAB	**Houston Area Bears** **P.O. Box 66443** **Houston, TX 77266** **713-867-9123**	**E-mail** HouAreaBrz@aol.com **Website:** http:/members.aol.com/houbears/index.html	1 **Bears Dine Out** Niko Niko's Montrose & Missouri	2	3	4
5	6	7	8 **Bears Movie Night** Cineplex Odeon West Gray & Waugh 6:45 p.m.	9	10	11 **Monthly Social** Venture-N 9 p.m. Topside bar
12 **General Meeting** 4:00p.m. Brazos River Bottom	13 **Columbus Day**	14	15 **HCC Meeting** 8:00 p.m. Venture-N	16	17	18 **Anita Mann's Bear Auction** Venture-N 10:00 p.m. **Jeff & Rick's** Wine Tasting 7:30 RSVP 713-867-9123
19 **Bartending** Venture-N 6:00p.m. **Grin'N Bear It** contest 9:00p.m.	20	21	22 **Bears Dine Out** Potato Patch 2504 FM 1960 7:00 p.m.	23	24	25
26 **Bartending** Venture-N 6:00p.m. 	27	28	29	30	31 **HAPPY HALLOWEEN**	

Bears Online - Howabout "The Growler" Online? by Paul Pruitt

After initial testing with great success, we are pleased to announce that "The Growler" is now available through e-mail to all Houston Area Bears members!

Here is how it works. First, you need to load a ".pdf" reader. That's not as bad as it sounds! The most widely used ".pdf" reader is "Adobe Acrobat Reader". It is **FREE SOFTWARE** available on the internet. The following website provides every possible combination of "Acrobat" that exists.

"http://www.adobe.com/prodindex/acrobat/readstep.html"

The Growler is available for version 3.0 of the reader only! Regardless of your platform (ie Mac, PC - DOS - Windows -NT, or Sun Graphics or whatever, you must be careful to load version 3.0 for that platform!

The above mentioned web site will guide you through the process of determining the proper reader for your particular computer. The readers will come with auto installers to make loading the software easy.

After you have installed "Acrobat Reader 3.0" you are ready to open and preview any ".pdf" file that you may find on the internet.

When you receive "The Growler", it will be as an attachment to your e-mail, much like the famed ".gif" files that so many of us are so fond of. Do not attempt to open the ".pdf" file using your web browser (Navigator, Eudora or whatever). Just click once on the attachment and tell the computer to save it to another area, preferably, your hard drive. Some computers may not have enough memory to run web browsers and Acrobat at the same time, so you may have to quit your browser before opening your newsletter using "Adobe Acrobat".

To begin receiving "The Growler" through e-mail, first, you must e-mail me, Paul Pruitt at: "ppruitt@characters.com", and request that "The Growler" be delivered to your e-mail address. You must be sure to state the address that you want it delivered to (if you e-mail me from work, you may not want it delivered there, but to your home instead! OK?).

Now, what are the advantages of getting "The Growler" by e-mail? Well, due to the nature of the product you will, most naturally, receive our newsletter at least three days ahead of the regular mail! No matter how hard it may rain outside, your e-mailed newsletter will NEVER be soggy! It's a definite statement that you're a modern, cosmopolitan bear, living on the edge! It will save at least 1 tree per year from those ruthless, but sometimes furry and handsome loggers! The Owls will love you! It will reduce the cost to the Houston Area Bears of producing the newsletter! Also in the not too distant future the e-mailed version will be available in FULL COLOR which is simply not possible in the mailed version. So, there you have it!

Notice: If you decide to receive "The Growler" by e-mail you will no longer get the regular version in regular mail. There may be as much as one issue of overlap in the changeover (ie. you get both for one month) but not more than that. That would have to do with the timing of your order.

Also, fair warning! Where I am employed I have produced as many as three thousand ".pdf" files this year alone. Those files are circulated throughout the world! Not even so much as one of them has been unreadable to anyone in any country provided that they have the proper reader software loaded for their particular computer! Even if you use ".pdf" reader software other than "Adobe Acrobat", it is up to you to inquire from your supplier or source if that software can read version 3.0 Acrobat files. What this boils down to is simple, if you can't read my ".pdf" files, don't e-mail me and tell me that there is something wrong with my files! There Ain't! Period! Get that free software loaded with the correct version and get it loaded right!

OK, now that my claws and fangs have disappeared, I really hope that *every* member who is able to, will subscribe to this new service. Especially those other bear clubs and organizations that we mail out to regularly.

The electronic format will print to any laser printer on the market. If you have a printer that is black & white only, when we go to color, there should still be enough contrast between colors for the graphics to print clearly. All body text will remain black & white for the best readability.

If for any reason you decide that you want to revert back to the regular version, just e-mail me and I will set it up.

Lastly, when bouncing this idea off of various friends, and trying to anticipate any issues that may arise for the membership, the only one that came up was about membership dues being needed to produce the newsletter and cover cost of postage. According to the Triad, the membership dues were originally for that purpose, but as we have grown larger and gotten involved in more activities, the dues are necessary to cover "incidentals", which is why we also bartend for tips periodically. So, basically, the dues are for the privileges of membership. Love Y'all P.P.

Houston Area Bears Growler

HAB

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Volume 3 Number 12 **December, 1997 Issue** Published by The Houston Area Bears

Monthly Meeting

The Novembear meeting of the Houston Area Bears was held at the BRB on Sunday the 9th, at 4pm. Jeff opened the meeting by recognizing new members and guests, they included: Jennifer Ellsworth, Jackie Thorne, and David. All members attending gave a welcome round of applause to all of them. Jeff began by thanking all who attended recent dine outs at several locations including the Potato Patch and the Spanish Flower. Bears dine out will resume in January after we get the holidays under our belts and find more time to frolic. As in the past, restaraunts will be chosen by those who attended in the past, or any suggestions you might have.

Guest bartending in the recent past has been a success due to the efforts of Jeff, needless to say, and Stan who bartended one Sunday with the help of John and Tim, with the assistance of Todd. Thanks to Boy Robert for helping Jeff out, and have I left anyon out? Thanks to all members who attend the VN when we bartend on the 3rd and 4th Sundays.We appreciate your patronage. While on the subject, we should mention that HCC bartends on the 2nd Sunday after our business meetings. The next time to volunteer to bartend will be the night of the HAB Xmas Party. The HAB has also been given LUEY Friday (02/27) to bartend topside by Jim Roberts.

Past Atcitities

Notes from past activities included a Wine Tasting Party at Jeff,Rick & Robert's on Saturday Oct. 18th. Jeff said that it was fun and festive, and included 16 people plus the host. A fun time was had by all.

The Haunted House Tour ran through the Venture N and around it's neighborhood on Oct. 29th, and was hosted by Boy Robert. His hair was blue that night as he and six others went through the chills and thrills of some of the funky hair raising fun out on Main & Fannin Sts.

The Renssaince Festival attendees made the trip by carpool and bus this year, and met at the festival to enjoy the fun. David B. and Charles said they even went back again for more because the bear hunting was so good!

Thanks to David M. who put in his effort to see that some of the guys made their way there in a fashionable length of time. We hope more will join in next year.

Anita Mann's Bear Auction deserves more than a mere mention from the the last business meeting. It was an outstanding effort to raise money for the Pet Patrol. Congratulations to John Mata for a job well done and thanks to all the Bears who participated in the fundraiser.

Future Activities

A future activity the night of the last business meeting was the Misfit's "A Night of Spice" show at the Venture N. It was their HCC fundraiser for LUEY and raised $606 that night. The show was rehearsed for weeks before, and the results were very good. Court member Crystal performed, Cowgurl Thumper, and HAB member Cuntessa was on stage also. Jeff has mentioned that the HAB will perform for the HCC fundraiser in January, and our goal is to surpass the monies raised by the Misfits. The word is "help" to all of you out there who can. Check out our calendar of events, and if you can't be there to perform please be out there to support us.

Those who are interested in performing , or just generally helping out for the Main St. Maniacs/HAB show on Dec. 27th will meet at Butchie & Steve's on Tuesday 12/09 at 7pm to hammer out the details....

The Lancer's celebrate their Anniversary at the Venture N on Saturday 12/06, and the Houston Area Bear's are giving them a cocktail party before their run ends up at the Club Houston. Be sure to ask Jeff for details. It was by unanimous decision by all members at the Novembear meeting that Jerry S. and Rick A. lead the committee to write a skit for the HAB members to perform at the LUEY show again this March. They graciously accepted!

Dickens on the Strand

David M. invites all to attend this years Dickens on the Strand in Galveston on Sunday Dec. 7th. All potentially interested Bears should assemble in the parking area of the BRB at 10am to car pool, or what have you. Cost for the Strand is $8, and tickets may be purchased in advance for $6, call David for details. Scot M. says that Father Christmas is gorgeous! Hope we get to see pictures when they are developed.

Thanksgiving

Many thanks to those who volunteered their time for Anita Mann's Thanksgiving Dinner at the Venture n. Many individuals enjoyed a fabulous dinner ,including the volunteers themselves. Thanks to Paul P.,who cooked 4 turkeys,cornbread dressing,peach cobbler, mashed potatoes and gravy, plus fruit salad. Jeff, Rick and Robert also cooked a turkey and yams.

Many desserts trickled in from different members who showed up and said, "what can I do?". If we didn't immediately have a suggestion for you, let me thank you now for being there to support us.

John wants this tradition to show people that we can open our hearts to people, even when the holiday makes us busy with our own families and lives.

Thanks to John Mata, who is one Houston Area Bear that leads the rest of us in understanding what Thanksgiving is meant to be. Thanks also to John & Dan, Steve S.,and Richard G., who also showed up to help. The entertainment was provided by Cuntessa of the HAB, and Jennifer Ellsworth of the Court.Please give Paul a pat on the butt, and tell him his hard work does deserve our undivided recognition.

Barry Mac opened his home around noon for a group of Bears who enjoyed fixins at his place.Barry is also to be thanked for a cocktail party he threw for the Bexar County Bear's Anniversary Party.Barry said while he was there, his houseguest from California won the Cub of the Year in San Antonio, and Barry won two Bear baskets. Congratulations.

Quilt Raffle

The Houston Area Bears formerly announce the raffle of one exquisite queen size quilt, handmade by Michael "Bear"Darling in Sarasota ,Florida.

Thanks up front to John & Tim of Flash Printing who donated the printing of the raffle tickets. Raffle tickets are available from many HAB members, but you can personally have a booklet to sell at work or at play by speaking to Jeff or Stan. The quality of this item will make an impressive gift or accessory to anyone's home, and a memorable hand me down for anyone to cherish.

Tickets are extremely cheap at $1 or 6 for $5. Everyone should buy just one because the winner need not be present. The winner's name will be drawn at the Bear of the Year contest at the V N on Dec.21st. Photo copies of the quilt are hung throughout the montrose club scene and many people may ask you where to buy a ticket. Please point them in our direction. The monies raised for the quilt will be donated to a.a.b.a.,

for the Aids Alliance of the Bay Area, a case management office for people with AIDS . This organization helps people find their way through the maze of red tape that surrounds managed care.

Tickets are available for all members to sell if they are interested.

Bear of the Year

December 21st will be the evening Anita Mann presents the Mr.Grin n' Bear it award to one lucky contestant at the V N, around 9pm. The Bear of the Year will recieve airfare and hotel accomodations to the San Francisco Bear Run around April. The contest should be interesting this year with Anita stipulating that contestants display a role playing or talent/fantasy portion during the production. Last year's winner, Steve S. will be there, as well as many monthly winners from throughout the year. The Quilt will be raffled off to some lucky individual on this evening of fun.

Houston Council of Clubs

The host hotel is discontinued for this coming LUEY weekend. Arrangements did not gel as expected so your out of town guests can make arrangements anywhere they see fit. It is still suggested to have visitors make reservations somewhere because LUEY weekend falls on the last weekend of the Astrodome Rodeo. Holiday Inn at the Med Center is still a good idea when the Lovett Inn gets booked up.

It was unanimously decided at the Novembear business meeting that Jerry S. and Rick A. would again write the skit for the HAB members to perform on LUEY Sunday. They both agreed and we look forward to hearing their ideas.

Those that volunteer to be in the production will be responsible for rehearsals and appropriate costumes. Jeff has also mentioned that LUEY Friday will include HAB guest bartending topside at the V N during registration. We will need volunteers to do both.

Our services have also been donated for the LUEY fundraiser on January 11th at the V N. Jeff will want to hear from all performers for this HAB SHOW that will raise money for LUEY weekend. The Misfits show in November raised $606 for HCC, and Jeff is determined to surpass that amount. Please come out to support us.

T-shirts will be available this LUEY weekend with designs from the pin contest. They will be very reasonable and should be very attractive.

Registration is $10 and the T-shirt is extra.

Christmas Party

The Houston Area Bears will celebrate it's third Christmas Party at the home of Jerry & Chris. Details of the event are under the watchful eye of Barry Mac, and he can be contacted to hammer out any details. Members attending the Christmas Party will need to volunteer to bring a covered dish, paper product, soft drink, or something else to accessorize the event. It is highly suggested that Barry Mac knows what you are intending to bring. For instance, pecan pie is nice but if 40 Bears show up with one we're in deep....dessert!

Members are encouraged to bring a wrapped Christmas gift in the $10 range. These will be distributed for a gift exchange described loosely as "Chinese". Directions to Jerry & Chris's are included in this newsletter....TAKE THE DIRECTIONS WITH YOU!!!! You are welcome to bring and consume the alcoholic beverage of your choice. It is BYOB for this intention. Committee's are set up to pre decorate/prepare the premises for the party,please ask Barry Mac. Thanks to all in advance for your help. It will take place Sunday Dec.14th at around 2pm.

Bear of the Year

The Royal Sovereign Imperial Court of the Single Star holds it's election for Empress & Emperor XIV at the Houston Voice office, 811 Westheimer suite 105 on January 10th during banker's hours. Candidates Jennifer Ellsworth and Jackie Evelyn Thorne attended the November meeting of the HAB and spoke to the members stating their platform and dedication to the office they are seeking. Hand outs were made available to all members in attendance. All members of the Houston Area Bears are eligible to vote at this years

election, and it is your decision whether to vote or not. Giovanni is a candidate for Emperor XIV, and although running unapposed, will succeed by a majority of yes votes on a yes or no ballot. Make it your personal decision to get to know these candidates and vote at this years election. Good Luck to all candidates this January 11th.

Shows ... Shows ... Shows ...!!!

The Main Street Maniacs and the Houston Area Bears will host an After Christmas Show on Dec.27th at the V N around 9pm. Bears interested in performing should make arrangements to attend a meeting at Butchie & Steve's on Tuesday Dec. 9th. If you cannot attend the meeting please call Stan and tell him what you intend to perform that night. We look forward to all suggestions from Bears that are not performing but just have a good idea, also. This show has been described so far as half Xmas and half trash disco/ motown. If anyone has a copy of Connie Francis sings your Hannuka Favorites, please let us know. We are also looking for other strange Xmas music, please let us know what you have.

And another mention of the LUEY fundraiser on January 11th at the V N hopefully at 8pm, and after the January business meeting. This is an HAB show and it is supposed to be big ,bright, and entertaining. We encourage everyone to come forward with their ideas (and requests) for all interested in performing. We cannot wait until January to rehearse for this show. The Misfits rehearsed for 3 weeks for their show if that is any indication of what we need to do. Cuntessa cannot do this alone, so please offer to help any way you can. It will be greatly appreciated.

Bears on the Internet

Just another reminder, You can receive the *"Growler"* by E-mail now. The requests are increasing daily! To get your very own color version of the *"Growler,"* just e-mail a request to Paul Pruitt at ppruitt@characters.com (all lower case).

The benefits are that you will receive the Houston Area Bears Newsletter faster than the black & white version, it will never arrive wet even during the worst of rain storms (unless you breath really heavy on your monitor screen) and it will make you really popular (that means you will get more sex)! So, you see, you really need this new innovation in order to get real satisfaction. E-mail me baby and tell me what I want to hear! Chow now!

Bears doings Nationwide

By Lyle

The mailbox has recieved a lot of great stuff. We've gotten November newsletters from the following Bear Clubs: Chesapeake Bay Bears; Heart of Texas Bears (austin); Leather Knights-Dallas; Bear Trax- Hoosier Bears; Red Earth Bears (okc); Northwest Bears-Seattle; Lavender Salon Reader; Encouragement; Sun Coast Leather Club (St.Pete, FL) and Bear Tracks-Dallas Bears.

For those Bears who like to wander, here's some doin's to mark down on your calendar. The Bears of Old Pueblo, Tuscon, host La Fiesta do Los Osos, January 16-18, 1998. For more information call 520-733-9409.

Dallas Bears host Texas Bear Round-Up III on March 26-28,1998(214-521-5342 X880). Also this same weekend, The Blackjack Bears of Las Vegas are hosting Bear Hunt which includes a tour through the Star Trek Experience (702-225-4513).

International Bear Rendezvous, San Francisco is February 13-16, 1998 (415-541-5000)

Bears on Skis...watchout! Day trips for downhill skiing at Stevens Pass and Crystal Mountain as well as a cross country and snowshoe outing are in the works. For more information call Rick Rocheleau (206-721-3278).

Finally for those Bathing Suit (or not) Bears, the Sun Coast Leather Club,Inc. Fifth Anniversary Party "Fractured Leather Tails" is scheduled for April 3-5,1998 (813-669-LTHR option 1).

Now don't tell me there's nothing to do!

December 1997

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
HAB	1 **Houston Area Bears** **P.O. Box 66443** **Houston, TX 77266** **713-867-9123**	2 **E-mail** HouAreaBrz@aol.com **Website:** http:/members.aol.com/houbears/index.html	3	4	5	6 **Lancers Anniversary** **Venture-N-Club Houston** **Bears Cocktail Party**
7 **Dickens on the Strand** **BRB @10:00p.m.**	8	9 **Meeting at Butchies** **for Xmas Show of 27th**	10	11	12	13 **Monthly Social** Venture-N 9 p.m. Topside bar
14 **Christmas Party** Jerry Sherman's House 2:00 p.m. **Bartending** Venture-N 6:00p.m.	15	16	17 **HCC Meeting 8:00 p.m.** **At Mary's Naturally!**	18	19	20
21 **Bartending** Venture-N 6:00p.m. **Quilt Raffle** **Bear of the Year** contest 9:00p.m.V-N	22	23	24	25 **Bearry Christmas!** **&**	26	27 **Main Street Maniacs/** **Bears Show** Venture-N 9:00 p.m.
28	29	30	31	**HAPPY NEW YEAR!**		