



May 15, 2008

<http://www.libertybears.net>

Bear Essentials

The Official Newsletter of the Liberty Bears of Philadelphia

New Club Year Begins Sept. 2008

New Schedule for New Club Year

The Liberty Bears will be developing a new schedule of general meetings, socials, and other events. The schedule will be published in our next Bear Essentials and at our website (libertybears.net). Remember, the Liberty Bears go into semi-hibernation during the summer months. We do have a summer road trip to Bear Camp planned. Look to our website for other summer events.

It's Another Outstanding May for the Liberty Bears Third Annual Art Show:

For the 3rd year in a row the Liberty Bears of Phila. teamed up with cutting edge gay artists to celebrate life, art and raise money for local charity. Proceeds from this year's show will benefit the Calcutta House, "a special project of national significance and the only organization of [its] kind providing highly supportive housing and care to adult men and women with AIDS who have the least and need the most". Calcutta house is located right here in center city Philadelphia.

Patrons enjoyed the paintings, drawings and wood sculptures of Jason Kraley, Rob Harmon, Angel Colon and Devon Palmer, and the "art cakes" of Jonathan Blount. At the same time help raise much needed money for the Calcutta House.

The show was kicked off with cocktails and hors d'oeuvres at our opening night "meet and mingle with the artists", Thurs., Apr. 17 at the Top of the Bike Stop. The event continued to Sun., Apr. 20.



"art cake" by Jonathan Blount (jonjinart.com)

The Liberty Bears' Last Social until Sept.

"Get Ready for Summer" Social
Sat. June 7, 2008
in the PIT at the Bike Stop



Bears on Liberty Weekend VI:

For the sixth year straight, Bears on Liberty Weekend was stupendous! This time around we were loosely associated with the Liberty Gay Rodeo which was manifested in several ways- our Hospitality Suite at the Loew's Hotel, the Bearapalooza evening in the Leow's Ballroom, and attendance at the Rodeo.

BoLW VI began on Thurs., May 8 with pre-registration and the "Sexy Bear Contest" at the Bike Stop. Official registration was on Friday evening from 5-8pm at the Bike Stop. There we had an open Killian's Red Beer tap and complimentary vodka drinks. That was the starting point for our Bear Crawl which took us to Woody's and The WestBury for further imbibing. We ended up at Bearapalooza in Loew's Ballroom. (See letter below for more on Bearapalooza.) For those who were up for more, there was a late night BearBQ at Club Baths from 1am to ???

Sat. started with eye-openers and brunch at Uncles. From there we ventured to the Devon Horse Grounds for an afternoon of Gay Rodeo. In the evening The Liberty Bears hosted a very well attended bar get-together at the Bike Stop. Once again, for those who were of the mind, there were late night activities at Pure and Club Baths.

Sun. brunch and country music was the culminating event at Woody's. Anyone who still had the energy attended the Sun. afternoon Gay Rodeo.

This short synopsis of BoLW VI doesn't give justice to all the energy and positive vibes and hot men in attendance but an article from Brotherhood of Bears does!

...just posted on Brotherhood of Bears:

<[http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Brotherhood Bears](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Brotherhood%20Bears)>

respectfully submitted by your Philadelphia correspondent, R. Mitchell Deighan, May 12, 2008:

BOLW VI, The Liberty Bears' "Bears On Liberty Weekend", May 8-11, 2008 <<http://www.libertybears.net>>

As reported here at Brotherhood of Bears a few weeks ago, this past weekend was the Liberty Bears' "Bears on Liberty Weekend" in center city Philly, and they chose one of the nation's great architectural tall buildings to host the 4-day program. It was all so spectacularly handsome ...and HOT!! I was immediately certain we weren't in Kansas anymore, LOL ...a world-class but down home convergence with a hefty

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upcoming events:

SAT., June 7, 2008: Club General Meeting, 5pm-6pm in the PIT at the Bike Stop;

SAT., June 7, 2008: Social, 6pm-10pm at the Bike Stop, main bar; **theme: "Get Ready for Summer";**

Jul. 31-Aug. 3, 2008: Liberty Bears' Road Trip to Bear Camp 2008 in Columbus OH. For more info go to: www.libertybears.net;

SAT., Sept. 6, 2008: NEW CLUB YEAR BEGINS! General Meeting, 5pm-6pm in the PIT at the Bike Stop;

SAT., Sept. 6, 2008: Social, 6pm-10pm at the Bike Stop, main bar; **theme: to be announced;**

Gotta Question? Just Ask The Badger

Dear Badger,

I'm taking a plane soon. Is it true that airport security won't like my nipple rings? Traveler

Dear Traveler,

According to assylum.com:

A Texas woman has called for an investigation and an apology from Transportation Safety Administration officials after she was forced to painfully remove her nipple rings before a flight from Lubbock to Dallas.

"I wouldn't wish this experience upon anyone," said Mandi Hamlin. "My experience with TSA was a nightmare I had to endure. No one deserves to be treated this way."

Not content to simply be shown the embedded jewelry (the skin around nipple rings often heals around the piercing, making them extremely difficult and painful to remove), TSA officials reportedly made Hamlin remove the two pieces of jewelry with a pair of pliers. At a news conference, Hamlin used a peach-colored bra to demonstrate how the jewelry was removed.

The TSA claims it did no wrong, saying its agents followed procedure, but Hamlin claims she wasn't offered a "pat-down" search, which is listed as an option in the TSA guidelines.



Bears on Liberty Weekend VI



...Bears
Cowboys &
Cowgirls

Interested in being associated with the Liberty Bears? Come to our general meeting, Sat., June 7 in the PIT at the Bike Stop.

Liberty Bears Summer Road Trip

The Liberty Bears are planning another road trip to a big bear event. This time, we're headed for Bear Camp 2008 in Columbus OH. The camp takes place July 31 thru Aug. 3, 2008.

We'll be representing the Liberty Bears, but individuals are responsible for registering with the Bear Camp, for their own transportation to Columbus, and for their own hotel arrangements.

You can find info and suggestions on our website: www.libertybears.net

Bears on Liberty Weekend VI:

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proportion of hot big guys in the mix. OK, so I'm sorta partial to the big bears.

Yes, the Liberty Bears partnered with at least 16 sponsors including the Liberty Gay Rodeo Association so it wasn't just hot bellied bubbas but also lanky bears in leather vests & cowboy hats, all mixed together inside the former PSFS Building which has been converted into a spectacular Loew's Hotel ...a monumental art deco skyscraper gone mega-hot hotel conversion, in harmony with the mammoth Pennsylvania Convention Center across the street.

I was there to see Bearapalooza on Friday night, May 9th, and got my first clue it was gonna be a magic night when I pulled into the skyscraper's parking garage and the valet gave me a real good deal when I told him I was there for the bears. So I hopped outta the truck with a smile on my face and tumbled right inside, following the steady stream of fuzzy bears past the bank of elevators and mindblower cafe/restaurant and up the sweeping escalators to an entire mega-complex of bear heaven! Right on cue as I soared up that escalator I popped a button at the bottom of my checkered shirt at the belly overhang, so I sorta apologized to the big guy who first greeted me but he just smiled and expressed his relief that it was just my belly sticking out.

So with an even bigger smile on my face I strolled past all the bear booths and the big ballroom and the computers cranking out souvenir photos and the bartenders and folks selling tickets for drinks. Keep in mind, this was my first bear event so I suspect I looked like a hillbilly exploring Manhattan. But what the heck, everybody was so darned nice and there was burly ass for miles in every direction!!

That's when I dove into the big Bearapalooza auditorium and the first smiling face I see is Freddy Freeman who I'd never met except in my dreams, and then had a real nice conversation with Freddy's partner Jay Freeman (same last name!). From there it was all downhill, a night of wonderful bear spirit and frivolity and great friggin music!! As I plunked my butt down to begin soaking in the sights I thought I spotted big Kevin from Detroit, we locked eyes but then that dude disappeared into the crowd and I still don't know if it was Kevin and I say this because earlier this decade I was driving along Pine Street in center city Philly and thought Kevin was walking down the sidewalk towards my oncoming truck but when I wrote him in Detroit he chuckled, it wasn't him but he was definitely interested to hear he has a virtual twin here in Philadelphia. So maybe it was that same dude who I saw at Bearapalooza. The point being: The vibe was GOOD!! That's when I spotted Kendall, who I was hoping would be on the roster and sure enough I finally got to meet and talk with him, what a hot man and wow what a body and man can that dude MOVE!!! and sing, of course... really nice to talk with him and later on he was the final performer of the night and as he sang his last number he chose selected bears in the audience to accentuate the lyrics, he was flying all over the place and again, man, this dude can really move but at a certain point in the song he ran in my direction and I took a deep breath as he jumped up on the table in front of me and then leapt towards me and rubbed my belly as he sang "and I don't care if you're fat.", it was so friggin cool, this was the moment when the popped button finally made sense ...looked across the room and Big Glen of Future Villain Band was smiling ear to ear. Man, you guys shoulda heard FVB's set, it was HOT HOT HOT!!! Glen and John from L. A. were really thumpin and I gotta tell you, Glen is right up there with Big John from Amsterdam in terms of being one of the ultimate big bear guitarists on Planet Earth!! Not to mention the one and only Freddy Freeman who is not only HOT but a hot musician and singer. Whoops, guess I'm wearing my heart on my sleeve with this report but what the heck, just striving for accuracy.

I was really bowled-over by the high proportion of big guys in the Bearapalooza mix and suspect a good many are Liberty Bears. I mean to tell you guys, it was a proud night for Philadelphia and my hat's off to everyone who combined to make this event so damn memorable!