

JIMMY CARPER: The following program contains language or images of a frank or sensitive nature for which may be considered objectionable by some. Listener discretion is advised.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

Oh yes, you've tuned in to *After Hours*, a continuing tradition on KPFT Houston 90.1 FM. The crew of *After Hours* is ready to bring you news, interviews, and music geared for gay and lesbian people. Here at *After Hours*, we may be diverse, but we have one thing in common, we are out of the closet and urge everyone to come out of their closets. That means standing up for yourself, taking responsibility for your own life, and being proud of who you are.

Realistically, we not everyone can do that because of age, job, or frame of mind. That's OK. We're here for you, too. So sit back, relax, and enjoy this week's edition of *After Hours*.

DIANE Hey, hey, hey. Point us on.

WILLIAMS:

JIMMY CARPER: Ooh, we are on.

DIANE This is *After Hours*. Gay and lesbian radio, news information and entertainment.

WILLIAMS:

JIMMY CARPER: *After Hours*, a continuing tradition.

DIANE World radio for the people, blah, blah, blah--

WILLIAMS:

JIMMY CARPER: On KPFT Houston.

DIANE 90.1 FM.

WILLIAMS:

JIMMY CARPER: Yes. And--

DIANE Did you know that? You're here.

WILLIAMS:

JIMMY CARPER: We have to apologize because the BBC did not come in at midnight.

DIANE Those Brits are sleeping--

WILLIAMS:

JIMMY CARPER: There's something wrong with the-- yeah, there's something wrong with the satellite, yeah. It's kind of-- so you get us. ta-da! OK.

DIANE Do your high note, Jimmy.

WILLIAMS:

JIMMY CARPER: [HIGH-PITCHED YELL]

DIANE Thank God you don't look smoke anymore.

WILLIAMS:

JIMMY CARPER: Watch this meter.

DIANE What meter? Do it again.

WILLIAMS:

JIMMY CARPER: See this meter? Watch.

DIANE I'm watching the meter.

WILLIAMS:

JIMMY CARPER: --do this one more time. Watch this--

DIANE OK, now I will verbally show everyone in the audience what the meter is doing.

WILLIAMS:

JIMMY CARPER: OK.

DIANE One, One, One, One--

WILLIAMS:

JIMMY CARPER: [HIGH-PITCHED YELL]

DIANE [SCREAMS]

WILLIAMS:

JIMMY CARPER: Minus 3. OK.

DIANE That was great.

WILLIAMS:

JIMMY CARPER: That's as far as you can go. It goes all the way.

DIANE All the way.

WILLIAMS:

JIMMY CARPER: Hey.

DIANE Well, we're glad you're here.

WILLIAMS:

JIMMY CARPER: Hey.

DIANE Whoa.

WILLIAMS:

JIMMY CARPER: It's the Diane and Jimmy Show, yes indeed.

DIANE And I love that.

WILLIAMS:

JIMMY CARPER: And HOG is here.

DIANE HOG is here. [OINKING SOUNDS].

WILLIAMS:

JIMMY CARPER: HOG is in the house.

DIANE HOG in the house. You know what? I'm seeing lights stop outside the place even as we speak. So my guess is, it's

WILLIAMS: going to be a wild and crazy night--

JIMMY CARPER: All right, all right.

DIANE Houston Outdoor Group, HOG, is here. They're going to talk about what the heck to do if you're a lesbian or gay

WILLIAMS: person and you like the outdoors in general. I think they do everything--

JIMMY CARPER: That's right, that's right, that's right.

DIANE Roller skating, bicycling, camping.

WILLIAMS:

JIMMY CARPER: I am here to tell you. Mm-hmm. What a great group.

DIANE Yeah. And we've got music just out the wazoo, all kinds of things.

WILLIAMS:

JIMMY CARPER: And then your wazoo, too, if that's where you'd like it--

DIANE Whatever you'd like it.

WILLIAMS:

JIMMY CARPER: OK.

DIANE That's what we have. And this is the art festival weekend, and there is a gillion people out and about.

WILLIAMS:

JIMMY CARPER: Uh huh.

DIANE Hi, hi. There's people everywhere. Look, I turn around, there's someone else, oh my God. And I have a purple

WILLIAMS: case full of you know what to talk about.

JIMMY CARPER: Ooh.

DIANE And it's just brimming to the brim with news and information for you, the people, here tonight or *After Hours*.

WILLIAMS:

JIMMY CARPER: Well, you know, I want to tell you something. People ask, you know, you do queer radio. You do gay and lesbian radio. And do you really get along with all of those other programmers who do all those other kind of shows? I mean, it's so-- I mean, very varied shows. Well--

DIANE On 90.1, you mean?

WILLIAMS:

JIMMY CARPER: Yes, yes. Now I want to tell you, there's lots of shows, but one in particular this week provided some music for us.

DIANE Cool.

WILLIAMS:

JIMMY CARPER: Lots of different music shows have provided music for *After Hours*. This is a music show called Weightless. Boing.

Yes. That's their kind of trademark.

DIANE Yeah.

WILLIAMS:

JIMMY CARPER: They're on Friday morning at 3:00 AM for those of you who are up at that hour or still up at that hour.

DIANE --only yesterday.

WILLIAMS:

JIMMY CARPER: There you go, there you go. And this is a song by the group Rush, believe it or not. But it's called "Nobody's Hero." It's being-- can hear it on some of the other stations here lately, but it's talking about AIDS and it's talking about I believe rape.

DIANE Oh?

WILLIAMS:

JIMMY CARPER: Two really tough subjects. And they treat them very well. This is from the show Weightless, from the co-host of the show Doug.

DIANE Hey, Doug. Cool, thanks.

WILLIAMS:

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah.

DIANE So if you like something, you're sitting there at home, you like something, bring it on down--

WILLIAMS:

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah, hey.

DIANE --we want to know about it.

WILLIAMS:

JIMMY CARPER: Absolutely, absolutely. We play more than just lesbian and gay artists. We play artists who are interested in saying something to and for the lesbian and gay community.

DIANE So let's hear it. This is Rush?

WILLIAMS:

JIMMY CARPER: Well, it is as soon as I get-- yeah--

DIANE This is rushed, Jimmy, actually. This is Rush.

WILLIAMS:

JIMMY CARPER: Oh, where am I here? Where am I? Where am I? Where am I?

DIANE --pointing button.

WILLIAMS:

JIMMY CARPER: This here, here, yes. And this should do it. Ready?

DIANE Yes, I'm ready.

WILLIAMS:

JIMMY CARPER: OK.

DIANE Thanks.

WILLIAMS:

JIMMY CARPER: I know that's wrong. It's not working. OK, let's try it somewhere else.

DIANE Well, the BBC wasn't happening, this isn't happening. I think it may be a glitch in the system.

WILLIAMS:

JIMMY CARPER: We're poor.

DIANE We're poor. Send money, donate now. There's people outside wanting to get in. I wonder who the heck they are

WILLIAMS: and if they would just wave at us.

JIMMY CARPER: I'd like to get this song going first if you don't mind, OK?

DIANE Please do.

WILLIAMS:

JIMMY CARPER: Let's see if we can do this this time. We are not working tonight. This is not it. We are going to go to something else, something--

DIANE --else entirely.

WILLIAMS:

JIMMY CARPER: Pop-- yes.

DIANE And now for something completely different. Well, we tried to do cassettes, we're going to CDs. This is the age of

WILLIAMS: modern music and that's what we're here about.

JIMMY CARPER: And this is a request that we had from last week that I didn't have the music with me. Yeah. Well, I didn't-- I didn't bring the music with me last year.

DIANE Oh yeah.

WILLIAMS:

JIMMY CARPER: It's Shaman.

DIANE One of my favorites.

WILLIAMS:

JIMMY CARPER: Is it?

DIANE One of my very favorites. That's my own personal "I can do anything song" in there. What are you playing?

WILLIAMS:

JIMMY CARPER: "Move Any Mountain."

DIANE That's my "I can do anything" song.

WILLIAMS:

JIMMY CARPER: And this is by request. And you're hearing it on *After Hours*.

DIANE Hello, hello. Oh look, we have meters. That means good things. Well, we're going to try and find out if we're

WILLIAMS: actually getting through to you guys out there. Call us up and let us know. JAM KPFT.

JIMMY CARPER: I think we ought to go with HOG, because I know the microphones are working tonight. I'm not having it.

DIANE --for me. So I would like to just say hi to our guests for this evening. And if you could just say hi and tell

WILLIAMS: everybody out there your name and where you from and all that kind of good stuff.

DJ: Hello. My name is DJ. I'm the President of the Houston Outdoor Group, fondly known as the HOG.

DIANE HOG, HOG, HOG, HOG. Jewel says to tell you hi. She's not going to be here today, but she said hi, come on down.

WILLIAMS:

DJ: Well, here I am.

DIANE Yay! Well, we're glad you're here. We heard-- last month we were going to have you come down and we got our

WILLIAMS: times mixed up and--

DJ: Yeah, I'm not sure what happened.

DIANE I'm glad you're here. Tell us what's happening with HOG. How long is HOG been in business, so to speak?

WILLIAMS:

DJ: Actually, about eight years altogether, but about five years ago they had died out for whatever reason. That was before my time. And we reorganized and we're going strong now. Have about 200 people on our mailing list.

DIANE Wow, that sounds good. What kind of activities do you have?

WILLIAMS:

DJ: Well, we do all kinds of things. And one thing I would like to do first is to give everybody our phone number first, because as-- we've got a lot of activities to talk about, and as people might be trying to take notes or not take notes, you're not going to get it all. So our number that we finally call the HOG line is--

DIANE HOG line.

WILLIAMS:

DJ: -is actually spells KAMPOUT out with a K. So remember that, and if you forget that, it's listed in the back of TWIT and some other publications. And I'll remind everybody of that number again later in the show. But as we talk about what's going on, if you miss something, just call that number some other time.

What you'll get is a message that says what HOG's about. And it'll give you a phone number to call if you want to talk to somebody personally and ask them more questions.

DIANE OK, great.

WILLIAMS:

DJ: What we are about is-- we're a social organization, we're not a charity group. There's plenty of those out there. And one thing the community needs is just a social group to get away from it all.

DIANE Definitely.

WILLIAMS:

DJ: And that's what we're about. A lot of outdoor activities and as well as other activities. Whatever anybody in the group wants to do, if they're willing to sponsor it, put their name and phone number in our newsletter that goes out monthly, then that's what we'll do.

DIANE Sounds good.

WILLIAMS:

DJ: On a regular basis-- well first of all, HOG is a social group for the men and women of the gay community. That's not to exclude anyone that is non-gay. We have people that have brought their sons or daughters along or other members of their family. And as long as they're OK with them, it's OK with us.

DIANE OK. I know that a lot of people I know have-- we've committed ourselves to death and we work hard in activities

WILLIAMS: that are serving our community. I think it's important to know that there are groups that are out there just to relax, just to have a good time.

DJ: That's what we're there for.

DIANE Great.

WILLIAMS:

DJ: On a regular basis, what the HOG does is we have a social once a month. And this is where we just get together usually at a member's home for a potluck or something like that. And where we get to know each other and for new members to come in or visitors just to find out what we're about. And-- well, again, just for us to meet each other. There's about 200 people on the mailing list that our socials maybe have 30 people, and so you don't meet everybody in one single session. That's a monthly basis. And we have a monthly newsletter. We go camping about once a month.

DIANE Any particular places?

WILLIAMS:

DJ: For the most part, we go camping around San Antonio and Austin. We try not to--

DIANE --camping land.

WILLIAMS:

DJ: Yes it is. And hill country is great. We do some in East Texas. We've gone on some long trips. Those are generally going to be trips where people can get off on vacation time, that type of thing, and fewer people can do that at one time. But the hill country is always great for us. We have some very favorite spots up there.

Horseback riding is something else we do on a regular basis monthly. It's usually on one Saturday a month in the morning from about 10:00 to 11:00. It's out at the edge of town. So that's our regular activities.

DIANE So if somebody's interested in doing some of those activities, I know there's a lot of displaced campers out there

WILLIAMS: and people who may have been going camping with their family or done a lot of activities as a child with their family group that for some reason or another they don't get to do it anymore. Any age?

DJ: Any age. The general age of our group, which is one of the questions we get when people call in inquiring, from 20s I guess through 40s, and that's not to exclude-- there's people that are older or maybe younger than that, but I would guess the average age is in the 30s. A lot of people are interested in that to what our average age is.

But we have a number of people in their 20s and in their 40s also. So what you said about displaced campers is really good, because people do like to camp and people are not aware of the Houston Outdoor Group are glad to hear about us. Most of our referrals come from the Gay Switchboard. When people are out there looking for--

DIANE 529-3211.

WILLIAMS:

DJ: They're looking for something to do besides just the bars. And the switchboard gives them our name and I'm sure other names, too, and they call us. And then when we do publicity, which we have been doing more lately, then we get a lot of calls from people that have read about us in the TWIT, for instance. And we're in the Pride Week Committee resource guide that they put out, and some other ones, too.

DIANE Well, I know that the group has been around for a while because I have some friends that were interested in

WILLIAMS: doing some things. Don't y'all have some parties or social groups that get together on a regular basis that--

I know I had some friends that were meeting some people with HOG and said that they met people for the first time and they were kind of nervous because they'd never met anybody else that was gay through a directory or resource guide, and they were kind of nervous and it turned out really well and everybody seemed to be really positive and--

DJ: That must have been one of our socials now we do support a lot of other groups in town. We do a lot of activities within our group, sponsored by our group, but we also support the bicycle-- Chain Gang Bicycle Group, the Lambda Roller Skating, the Ice Picks, which are the ice skating group. And they are not actually a part of the HOG, but we always have their schedule in our newsletter.

There are some new groups around town. There's a scuba diving group, a skydiving group. They're not part of our group because they do some charity-type work, and legally we're not in the charity business, we don't have all the--

DIANE The numbers and letters after your name?

WILLIAMS:

DJ: Yes, thank you. But we are on our way to getting their schedules in our newsletter. Basically our group and our newsletter is headed towards being central location that anybody can go to find out what's going on for activities in the community, active activities.

DIANE Social things.

WILLIAMS:

DJ: Yes. Other than the organized sports. I mean, we have the Montrose Sports League for that. So we try to cover everything else and give people one location to go through.

DIANE So that sounds like a lot of fun. How do you-- how do you get involved? I mean, like if I was somebody sitting at

WILLIAMS: home right now and I'm pretty nervous and I don't know whether to call or not, but I've been camping with my family and haven't been for 10 years and went to camp? So what's that number again and how would I--

DJ: Well, you dial up KAMPOUT on your phone.

DIANE With a K.

WILLIAMS:

DJ: KAMPOUT out with the K. And there'll be a phone number-- well you can either leave a message to get our newsletter to see what's going on, or you can call the phone number that's on there, which happens to be mine. I'm the president of the group. And whenever I get a call, I'm usually on the phone about half an hour because I'd like to talk about the group and answer all the questions and set your mind at ease about any problems that you have.

We have people that call that are concerned about the newsletter coming to their home. They may still live with their parents and they're afraid of how we send the newsletter, because a lot of things go out just stapled shut. They're not private in an envelope. And ours is sent out in a sealed envelope.

But we answer anybody's concerns. We'll send out-- if you leave a message on that KAMPOUT with a K message line, we will send out a complimentary newsletter with an application form if you want to receive the newsletter regularly. And basically that's all you do-- we don't really have a membership form, per se. You pay \$15 a year for the newsletter, \$20 if it's two people living together, and that's it.

Like I say, we're not exclusive. We don't have a limit to the number of people.

DIANE Do you have a men's camps and women's camps and both or just both or what--

WILLIAMS:

DJ: It's combined right now, and if any of the women want to start a separate subgroup for women and do women-only camps, and that's fine. We'll do just about whatever anybody wants to do as long as it's not crazy.

DIANE Yeah. Speaking of that, I heard that y'all have some nudist camps or nudist campouts. Is that something that you do? Or where do you do that? Where are you able to do that?

DJ: Occasionally we will go camping at some area that's, let's say, some private properties someone has. And it's-- for the most part, when it's been all guys or something, it's been clothing optional because why not? Nobody else is there and it's no different than being at the locker room at the gym. It's nothing anybody hasn't seen.

But we don't really advertise it as nude camping. One of our campouts got advertised that way. The headline said, HOGs go nude camping. Well, basically-- yes.

DIANE --one I read.

WILLIAMS:

DJ: And we got some bad publicity from that because that's not really what we wanted. Yeah, it was clothing optional, and there was about 20 campers there. Five people went without their clothes for a while and that was it. But nude camping, it just gives it a whole different connotation than what it really was. And that's something that happened once.

DIANE --family fun?

WILLIAMS:

DJ: Pretty much, yes.

DIANE OK.

WILLIAMS:

DJ: People that have come into the group-- we generally don't have to ask someone not to come back if they're like just don't fit in. They're extra rowdy because they realize they don't fit in. So yeah. But get real drunk. Now it's not to say we don't drink, but somebody just gets real rowdy and very drunk, they realize they don't fit in, because we're a decent group. And that's one of the questions a lot of people have when they call.

And it is men and women talking about questions that people have. A lot of women call. And no, we don't have as many women as we do men and that group right now. Our problem is that some of the women that do come to our socials or our campout, they have a good time and they want to come back, but they'll have their tendency not to unless they see other women there.

The problem is that the next time there are women there, but they see the same thing, not many women, so they don't come back for a while. If they'd all come at one time, they'd see how many women are in the group and everything will work out fine.

DIANE Yeah, that'd be good. One other question I know I have is that a lot of us haven't been camping before at all or been camping a little bit and they're just scared. Do you go and stay in tents or do you go and stay in cabins or you have A frames? Or what kind of lodgings do you have?

DJ: Well, you'd think we had rehearsed this, you're asking all the right questions. All the typical questions.

DIANE Do you have showers there? I want to know if I can plug my blow dryer in and am I going to get a shower in the morning?

DJ: We go camping in a variety of places. A lot of them do have facilities with hot showers and you can plug in your hairdryer next to the mirror. We also do what we call primitive camping where there is no facilities. That's something we do maybe once--

DIANE --extra.

WILLIAMS:

DJ: You bring it along. That's something-- the primitive camping is something we do maybe once a year. Basically most of the places we go are state parks or national parks. And actually, the state parks have the best facilities. National parks tend to try to keep things a little bit more primitive and natural. They might have showers, but they'll be cold showers, which I can't stand.

DIANE Oooh. Do we do any like river trips or canoeing or--

WILLIAMS:

DJ: Every summer we definitely do one, and for the past few years, two rafting trips on the Guadalupe up in New Braunfels.

DIANE Because I think that's what I'll be doing next weekend, and I'm really excited about it.

WILLIAMS:

DJ: Well it makes a good summer trip, because the weather's warm and--

DIANE Water is warmer in summer, too.

WILLIAMS:

DJ: Oh yes.

DIANE I'm going to go in April and it's probably going to be real cold.

WILLIAMS:

DJ: That's why I wouldn't do it in April because I hate cold water. But getting back to the equipment, people that haven't done it for a while or maybe have never gone camping but are interested, what we have before each camping trip that we publish in our newsletter, we also publish a pre camping meeting that's generally about a week before the camping. And a lot of people we have gone camping trips are not even-- have never even been to the group before.

So they'll show up at the meeting and they say, well, what do I do if I don't have equipment? Well, we have some people that have extra tents, people that have extra sleeping bags and equipment. And basically, you can pretty much have what you're going to need at your house except for maybe a tent or a sleeping bag.

But we have extras. We have one or two that belong to the group and nobody in particular and that's to loan out. Or you can share a tent with someone. And the other thing we discuss at these meetings is how we're going to handle food.

Generally we-- for the most part we've been splitting the breakfast for Saturday and Sunday morning because our trips are generally Friday evening through Sunday. And we try not to have it too far away so you can get there by Friday night and break camp around noon on Sunday and head back to town.

But we'll talk about food. We'll give people maps. Everything needs to be discussed, sharing rides if you don't have a ride. And carpooling.

DIANE So it looks like a poor person can probably do this OK without too much money expended?

WILLIAMS:

DJ: That's correct. And for the most part, a weekend of camping, even if it's a three-hour drive away, is going to be cheaper than staying home. Because if you stay home, you usually go out and do something on the weekend that usually costs you, whether it's shopping or going to the bar or going out to eat.

And you go camping and you split the costs, the gasoline, the food, the \$8 per campsite split four ways, it adds up to just a few dollars. That's a nice way to get away and not spend any money.

DIANE Well, I want to go. Let's have an *After Hours* campout. What do you think?

WILLIAMS:

DJ: That would be great. Everyone is welcome.

DIANE All right.

WILLIAMS:

DJ: Whether members bring friends or friends just show up.

JIMMY CARPER: When I go out camping-- well, actually, when I go out roughing it, when I'm roughing it, I'm staying at the Holiday Inn.

[LAUGHTER]

DJ: Ooh, that's pretty rough.

[LAUGHTER]

Some of us have tents better than that.

DIANE Well, I happen to know a campsite at near Brownsville where the showers are hot, the restrooms are right next to your camp, and they don't smell. And you wake up, it's beautiful. You see the sunrise on one side and the sunset on the other, it's great.

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah, but you're talking to a boy who gets up at noon.

DIANE Yeah, well that's true. Me, too.

WILLIAMS:

DJ: Some of our tents-- we're talking about accommodation, some of us have grown up and built into like large two-room tents and--

JIMMY CARPER: I have been camping once, and it was a three-room tent.

DJ: Ooh.

JIMMY CARPER: It was great. Oh, it's great. Yeah.

DJ: Motel 6?

JIMMY CARPER: No, no, no. It was real camping, except they had all the food trucked in.

DIANE Mm-hmm.

WILLIAMS:

JIMMY CARPER: Well--

DIANE So it's catered camping is what it was.

WILLIAMS:

DJ: All right, we'll do whatever you want to do.

JIMMY CARPER: It was fine.

DIANE The first time I ever went camping, it was in a three-person pup tent and it barely fit three people in one tiny

WILLIAMS: little triangle of a thing. It was tiny. It was terrible and it was all-in-all a terrible experience.

DJ: Now that's primitive camping.

DIANE That's primitive camping. But we had a really good time.

WILLIAMS:

INTERVIEWER: --a bunch of homosexuals. I mean, once you get together, it's like everything is well-arranged.

[LAUGHTER]

--his plates, and then there's always one person that's always prepared and has everything. Am I right?

DJ: Thank God for them on each trip. [LAUGHS]

INTERVIEWER Somebody always takes care of it.

1:

JIMMY CARPER: Well, the past producer of *After Hours* is, I think, an active, still, member of HOG, Bruce Reeves.

DJ: Yes.

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah.

DJ: Yes.

JIMMY CARPER: He was the--

DJ: He loves those rafting trips.

JIMMY CARPER: He loves them, yes.

DIANE Me, too.

WILLIAMS:

JIMMY CARPER: And he's itching to do another one real soon.

DJ: Well, we'll probably be doing some in July again. Generally July is when--

DIANE The water won't be really warm until around late June or July.

WILLIAMS:

INTERVIEWER Such panzies over here.

1:

[LAUGHTER]

We want the shower--

DIANE I'm going next weekend.

WILLIAMS:

DJ: Well, for those who aren't stuck on the showers and everything like that, like I said, we do have some primitive camping and-- but for those in the group-- there's members of the group that do not like to camp, but they're a member of the Houston Outdoor Group because we have a lot of activities. And occasionally we have some camping at areas where they do have cabins. There's a place on-- there's a place at Utopia on the River in Central Texas that has camping, and they also have a bed-and-breakfast lodge there.

So we reserved a couple of rooms and some campsites and accommodate everyone. They do like to go hiking with us. They just like to sleep in a nice bed with a feather pillow and have--

DIANE I think I do, too.

WILLIAMS:

DJ: Yeah.

DIANE Well, I went to Michigan this past summer and they have in Saugatuck, Michigan, which is this little town next to the lake on the west side of the state, there's a gay bed and breakfast that has camping-- that has camping trips done from the bed and breakfast site.

And you can stay there and do camping by the lake and camp out and just have a wonderful time, or you can stay in a tent and go out, and it's great. So it's something that I think a lot of people are doing and there's really a need for, and I'm really glad that an organization like this exists, especially in Houston, one of the largest gay and lesbian populations, because a lot of people stereotype gay people as not wanting to do outdoor things.

DJ: That's true.

DIANE That's an old stereotype such that Jimmy kind of fits pretty well about--

WILLIAMS:

JIMMY CARPER: Oh yeah.

DIANE Yeah, yeah, yeah. Not wanting to go camping because you might get your hair messed up or something. And I
WILLIAMS: happen to know two lesbians who will not go camping because they cannot plug in their blow dryers. They want to be able to do their hair and put on their makeup. Ding, ding, ding. That'd be you, girl.

DJ: Well, we even have-- we even have some members that are interested in hunting, which is one of the things that you least expect out of a group of gay people.

DIANE Yeah. Men with guns and gay people usually don't get along.

WILLIAMS:

DJ: We have someone who isn't actually a member yet that called and said, do you have anybody that likes to go hunting? I go hunting every year, and most of the people I go with are straight. And I'll have a good time and enjoy it with them, but I would prefer to go out with someone that we can communicate better and have a better time and find some other gay people who want to go hunting.

So we do have an article in our newsletter at the current time that tells people that are interested to give us a call and we'll get them together.

DIANE At what phone number again?

WILLIAMS:

DJ: KAMPOUT with the K.

DIANE All right. And you can also find out more information about HOG, Houston Outdoor Group, at the Gay and Lesbian
WILLIAMS: Switchboard. 529-3211.

DJ: I have a few more things, but I want to know first how much time I have.

DIANE Oh. Keep talking, whatever you want to talk about.

WILLIAMS:

DJ: Well, I talked about what we do on a regular basis and a few odds and ends. A few things that we've done in the past, some bigger trips that we've done, we have gone to the Grand Canyon. There have been trips to the Cayman Islands for scuba diving. Four of us took a trip a couple of years ago. We went camping and traveling-- it was only four of us because not too many people can get off for vacation for two weeks. We went for like 17 days.

DIANE Wow.

WILLIAMS:

DJ: We took a Ford Explorer and traveled up through-- well. We went up through Colorado, to Mesa Verde and did some things around Colorado and went into Utah where they have some wonderful national parks. Went up into Wyoming. Of course, Yellowstone. We went rafting on the Snake River and Jackson Hole. We went up into Montana to Glacier National Park where we actually did some off-road with our Explorer. And--

DIANE So this is--

WILLIAMS:

DJ: --climbed some mountains.

DIANE You have pictures and videos and all that kind of fun stuff?

WILLIAMS:

DJ: Oh, we have lots of pictures. Not too many videos yet. But we've done some big trips, and we'd like to do some more. Again, everything is sponsored by any member who decides they want to do something and is willing to sponsor it.

We don't have an activities committee that plans everything. We do have an activities director-- we actually call him a support-- activities support director. Anybody that wants to do something and not sure how to go about it can call this person. His number-- name and number is listed in our newsletter. Ask him how to go about it, maybe even get some ideas if they don't have any ideas yet what they want to do.

DIANE Right.

WILLIAMS:

DJ: So that's some of the things that we've done in the past. We have some things coming up. Our current April newsletter. Next weekend we have a trip to Enchanted Rock, which has already booked. It has to be-- we had to reserve those spots about three months ahead of time. And we've actually overbooked because we know some people will call and not be able to go, cancel out at the last minute.

DIANE A couple went there for spring break that I know and said they had a great time.

WILLIAMS:

DJ: Oh, it's a beautiful place. And it's, I understand from the parks people, that it's one of those places that's not-- it's not as well-known as you'd think. But it's a fantastic place. Let's see. Also in April-- well that's about it for April, because April is getting close to an end. And we're putting our May newsletter together.

Coming up in May-- our next social is in May, it's on May the 14th, which is a Saturday at 4:00. Again, there's more information in our newsletter, so callers-- listeners need to call up the KAMPOUT number with a K, and we'll send them a newsletter. And it will list the events, who to call, a little bit more details about everything.

DIANE So a social is just a get-together to talk about upcoming activities--

WILLIAMS:

DJ: Yeah, past--

DIANE --each other and--

WILLIAMS:

DJ: That's right. Past activities, future activities, maybe get some ideas about what's going on. We may have-- the following month we might not have anyone signed up for a social-- to have a social. So we'll need to get ideas to do that.

DIANE OK, great.

WILLIAMS:

DJ: We have two camping trips in May, which is unusual because we usually just have-- we average one. Our first one is May 13 through the 15 to Inks Lake, which is-- it's north of Austin, I believe. I'm not too familiar with it. I know it's very popular but I haven't been there myself.

And that's the same weekend as our social. So we're getting big enough and busy enough to where we have more than one event in the same weekend, which is fine. There's a lot of people in the group. And they certainly don't all go to the same thing and all go to one thing.

The very next weekend, May 20 through the 22nd, we are going to camp in on some private property between Wimberley and Blanco. There are no facilities on this property, but we're like 10 miles from Blanco State Park where you can go for the day and go swimming. Since this is a-- May is a warm month, we try to pick swimming and water activities for the warm months. And have your showers there. And then go back to your tent on the private property and go to sleep.

INTERVIEWER Is there anybody going with the Winnebago?

1:

DIANE Really?

WILLIAMS:

DJ: Most of--

DIANE Say that again, Sarah?

WILLIAMS:

INTERVIEWER Is there anybody going with the Winnebago?

1:

DJ: We do have some members that have Winnebagos and mobile homes and boats and trucks--

INTERVIEWER --pay them to stay in their vehicle?

1:

DJ: Come to our pre-- come to the pre-camping meeting.

DIANE --basically.

WILLIAMS:

DJ: Wouldn't want to get any poison ivy leaves.

INTERVIEWER You said earlier four of us can get together and rent one real cheap.

1:

DJ: Oh yes.

INTERVIEWER Those are the *After Hours* people, the kind of--

1:

DIANE The cheap people.

WILLIAMS:

INTERVIEWER Yeah, the cheap people and the kind of don't go into the pop-up tents.

1:

DIANE We don't do that--

WILLIAMS:

INTERVIEWER I need a van.

1:

DIANE I don't know, I don't know.

WILLIAMS:

INTERVIEWER It sounds neat, but--

1:

DIANE Like I said, I think I'll be going this weekend. This upcoming next weekend I'm going to be going camping, and I

WILLIAMS: haven't made any kind of reservations yet. I'm thinking I don't have to for April, but I don't know yet. So anybody that's going to be camping in New Braunfels, give me a call, maybe we'll meet you there.

DJ: Depending on how popular a space is, sometimes they need to be reserved three or four months ahead of time. We found this out the hard way in the last couple of years when we had a favorite spot and when someone decided to sponsor a trip there, they decided to call about a month before we were going to go and found out that they were booked for the next four months.

DIANE Wow.

WILLIAMS:

DJ: So we didn't get to go to our favorite spot or had to do it in a month that was like maybe very hot when we normally like to go to this particular area when it was a little cooler.

DIANE Well, I know that for a lot of us poor people, our camping means sleeping in the back seat of a hatchback.

WILLIAMS:

DJ: We have people that do that. You name it and we've done it or we do it or we'll let you do it.

DIANE OK, great. It sounds like it's got something for everybody there.

WILLIAMS:

DJ: For those people that don't like to rough it, we have an event coming up in August--

DIANE Sarah, yes.

WILLIAMS:

DJ: You may have heard or even promoted Meadowood Resort up close to Dallas. It's a beautiful place and it is definitely not roughing it. It's better than staying in the Holiday Inn. This is a beautiful place. It's gay-owned. It's in Athens.

DIANE I'm there. Now Meadow-- M-E--

WILLIAMS:

DJ: Meadowood.

DIANE Yeah. In Athens, Texas?

WILLIAMS:

DJ: Athens, Texas, close to Corsicana, before you get to Dallas. It's a beautiful country up there. This is a big place. It was originally built by the owner of the Dallas Cowboys and he entertained dignitaries and presidents there, just to tell you how nice it is. It's Meadowood--

DIANE So we queens will feel right at home.

WILLIAMS:

DJ: Oh, yes. We will camp it up in a different way.

DIANE Yeah, yeah.

WILLIAMS:

DJ: It's owned by two gay couples. Everyone that works there-- it's Meadowood Ranch and Resort. It's not really a working ranch, although they do have some cattle and some horses. And they do have ranch hands. Everyone there that works there--

DIANE You have to.

WILLIAMS:

DJ: Yes. They're all gay. All the cooks, all the waiters, all the ranch hands--

DIANE All gay all the time.

WILLIAMS:

DJ: Yeah. So basically they have a gay clientele. They can have as many as 80 people there at one time as far as their accommodations. Southern Country Houston, a dance group that I'm also a member of, is sponsoring an entire weekend reserved strictly for them and whoever else wants to go the first weekend of August.

Last year, about 25% of the people that went were members of the Houston Outdoor Group. This year, they have opened it up to the outdoor group to sign up from the beginning. Last year they didn't do that until enough of the dance group had signed up and they still had some openings.

The information will be in our May newsletter and there is a deadline coming up very shortly to get in and deposit and then make the final payment.

DIANE So as far as deposits, deposits have to be in-- by the time that you reserve your space, basically, or pretty close

WILLIAMS: to that?

DJ: For Meadowood?

DIANE For almost anything.

WILLIAMS:

DJ: For the camping trips, we rarely have to pay a deposit ahead of time.

DIANE That's great.

WILLIAMS:

DJ: Sometimes some of the very well-liked and very-- and the ones that are scheduled way ahead of time, they may ask for a certain amount of money ahead of time. And the-- we'll decide how many spaces to reserve, and out of our treasury we'll send in a deposit. And so no one has to worry about that until they get there as far as paying.

DIANE Great.

WILLIAMS:

DJ: Meadowood is a different story. We need enough people to turn in their initial deposit to make sure that we can keep that week in reserve because it's exclusively for the group. It was originally scheduled for June and not enough people got their deposits in early enough. It was just-- just didn't have enough time.

We went last year in August, had the entire area-- the entire resort for the Southern Country and Houston Outdoor Group. And it was a wonderful time. Most of our first times there.

DIANE I'm going to ask one question that I important to a lot of listeners because it's important to me, and it's going to be a hard question, probably a little hard to answer.

A lot of times I wouldn't-- something-- I would hear about something that sounds really fun and I wouldn't call or I wouldn't find out about it because I would be afraid I wouldn't fit in or there wouldn't be anybody else like me or I didn't know anybody. Do you think that you ever-- do you have that problem? Or for the newcomers, do you think that it's hard to acclimate or get a bunch of friendly people there?

DJ: It's a bunch of friendly people, I'll put it that way. But most of the people the first time there or the first time they call us have the same opinion that you do. I did. I'm that way with any group. If I don't know anybody there, I'm a little leery about going because I'll feel like an outsider.

One good thing about our group that I always try to stress to anyone that calls and ask about the group is that there's always so many new people since we don't have a limited number and there's always so many people coming in. And a lot of people that belong, they only go once in a while. So even our long-term members, they're like new people to us to some of us when they do show up.

But there's always new people, and that's one thing we like about the group, because we're always meeting new people. So we're very open to that. And that's one of the things that the new people that come into the group have expressed that they liked about it the first time they showed up, because they felt welcome.

Now when they first walked in, they might have felt like they were the only new person there and they were an outsider to everyone else. Then they realized that maybe a third of the people there were also new just like them, so it wasn't a clique that they were walking into.

DIANE --a safe space, then.

WILLIAMS:

DJ: Yes, it is.

DIANE OK.

WILLIAMS:

DJ: Something else we have coming up in May is as far as a long distance trip is we're advertising for this scuba diving group, they're going to Cozumel Memorial Day Weekend. And that's a new group that started at the same time as the skydiving group. And there's a lot of people that are interested in both. The group has really taken off.

DIANE And we talk about them on the radio quite a bit.

WILLIAMS:

DJ: That's great.

DIANE We're really excited to hear about that.

WILLIAMS:

DJ: Kayaking is something that we just started. We're getting into so many different things here. Some people from Corpus Christi that have a social group that's not specifically a camping group, they have a social group that just started and has developed in just six months to like 65 people.

And among their group, they do have people that like to go camping. And they heard about our group and contacted us and offered to come in and teach kayaking. And on our very next trip when we went to Lake Radcliffe, which is in Davy Crockett National Forest in East Texas, they joined us-- in fact, they were the first ones there. They brought two kayaks and several of our members got to take some free kayak lessons.

DIANE Wow.

WILLIAMS:

DJ: One of them was my lover, my other half. And just a few weeks later, we went to Hawaii and he got to do kayaking on the ocean out there between the islands. So his lesson paid off big time and real quick. Anyone that's interested in any other activities that they like to do, if I haven't mentioned it, we maybe are doing it already. And if not, then we'd like to have them in the group to help get us started on something like that.

DIANE Well, it sounds great, and it sounds like something everybody can do. It sounds to me like it's something that's pretty safe and people can feel pretty comfortable doing, so that's pretty important to me. I think that's giving somebody a safe space to be who they are is a definite necessity in this community.

DJ: Well, to tell you the variety of things that we do, I haven't mentioned some of the things. We have groups that will get together and go to the symphony, or go to Miller Outdoor Theater. Again, like I said, whatever anyone wants to do-- bowling, which is indoors, even though we're an outdoor group, we're a social group. We get together and do what we want. But the main thrust of the group is that we are very open to doing outdoor-type groups events and whatever anybody wants to do.

DIANE So when's your next meeting?

WILLIAMS:

DJ: Our next meeting and social is on the 14th of May. 4:00 in the afternoon. And the information will be in our newsletter or we'll give it to you on the phone.

DIANE OK. At what phone number again?

WILLIAMS:

DJ: KAMPOUT with a K.

DIANE With a K, KAMPOUT. All right. Or the Gay and Lesbian Switchboard, 529-3211. Great. Well, we're glad you came

WILLIAMS: by.

DJ: I've enjoyed it.

DIANE --stop in anytime, hang out with us.

WILLIAMS:

DJ: As you can tell, I love to talk about the group.

DIANE Well, we'd love to have you. So like I said, come and hang out with us any time and bring info. Any time you have

WILLIAMS: information, bring it down because we'd love to talk about it.

DJ: If someone wants to stop by, I've got about 10 current newsletters here and I will leave him here at Pacifica.

DIANE Great. Well, we'll be glad to take him. And listen, everybody. Hear that? Hey, that's for you, Jewel, if you're

WILLIAMS: listening, because it sounds so good. I just love the way that sounds over the radio. So we have it. So Jimmy, how are we doing with the music?

JIMMY CARPER: Oh, we're OK. We're going to try a couple of things and we'll be right back.

[MUSIC PLAYING]