



PARTY WEIRD
By Howie Richey
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Your invitation to Austin's funkiest functions

In 1839, Texas officials toasted their new capital of Austin, and its citizens never ran out of excuses for revelry. Austinites celebrate their homegrown and vibrant culture, renowned and innovative music, street life and collective quirkiness with pride. While world-class events now call the city home, in a culture that eschews conformity at every turn, Austin's underground social gatherings are what truly earn it bragging rights. Discover the grass-roots origins of the enigmatic eccentricity that has drawn people from all corners of Texas and now from the whole world. Feel the beat of drum circles at Eeyore's Birthday Party in April, sling puns at the annual O. Henry Pun-Off or share a meal with strangers at the monthly Perpetual Potluck Picnic—or Jim O's, as the locals say. Author Howie Richey explores the offbeat, exuberant culture and history of the city that started with a party that just didn't stop.

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ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Howie Richey is a curious fellow who has long been fascinated by the things people celebrate and how they do it. His formal background in Texas geography and audio production reveals little about his own capacity to jubilate, by either joining the closest party or by throwing one of his own. Nor do his forty-plus years as an Austin resident or his too-long career



as a proofreader hint at the kind of company he keeps. He's a teacher, public speaker, radio personality, cartographer, woodworker, inveterate camper, blogger and community facilitator. Howie doesn't know everyone in Austin but is working on it. This is his first book.