

# "THE GROUNDHOGESE"

January 2019

The Official Newsletter of The Punxsutawney Groundhog Club

[www.groundhog.org](http://www.groundhog.org)

Coming to  
Punxsutawney?  
Share your  
pictures of  
your visit  
with us!

Submit your  
favorite  
memory  
about  
Groundhog  
Day!



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## GROUNDHOG DAY 2019



Are you joining us in Punxsutawney for the 133<sup>rd</sup> Groundhog Day Celebration?  
Wondering what to expect? Well Groundhoppers- get ready for a great time!

Groundhog Day in Punxsutawney is an experience like no other!

Here is a list of our top pointers or things to expect!

1. A Large Crowd--- Seems like a no brainer right? Well, get ready for a large crowd. You will get to meet people from all over the world. We ask that you are courteous to all other attendees of the event! Please do not place children on your shoulders during the event and refrain from smoking in the crowd. Gobbler's Knob is an outdoor wooded area; there are plenty of spaces to smoke without interfering with others.
2. Have Patience—With a large crowd, it does take a longer amount of time to get around the town. It's all a part of the experience. Our community is a town of 5,500 residents so this is a huge influx for us.
3. Bring your camera and cell phone--- There will be lots of great opportunities for pictures.
4. Share your pictures on social media with us by using the hash tags [#punxsutawneyphil](#) [#ghd2019](#) and [#experiencethelegend](#)
5. When you arrive in Punxsutawney, find yourself The Groundhog Club's Schedule and Travel Guide. This is the ultimate tool for your weekend with us!

# GROUNDHOG DAY 2019 CONTINUED..

6. Take time to do the other events! Phil's Prognostication is the main event of Groundhog Day but, there are events all throughout the community starting February 1<sup>st</sup> through February 3<sup>rd</sup>. Make memories!

7. What kind of weather should you expect? Well- that is a good question that only Phil knows the answer to! Historically, it has been cold, rainy, snowy, below zero, mild and 'warm'—we have seen it all. It's hard to tell but what we do know is that Groundhog Day takes place in the middle of winter, in the middle of the night, in the middle of the woods in Pennsylvania- it will probably be cold. In Punxsutawney so far this winter, it has been very mild and we have had quite a bit of rain. So the long of the short of it you should probably pack: a snow suit, rain boots, a pair of shorts, and swim suit. For a more accurate weather forecast, check before you pack to come—our zip code is 15767. Only Phil knows!

**Follow Punxsutawney Phil on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter to see more pointers & tips!**

## Snowshoe Shadow Hike



Reserved for the snowiest days, snowshoeing is an exhilarating and fun activity for the winter. This low-impact activity is just as easy as walking but more fun! On snowshoes, you'll explore 1-2 miles of the Mahoning Shadow Trail just outside of downtown Punxsutawney, while enjoying the beautiful winter scenery and crisp air. Family fun for ages 8+. Maximum registration: 30

Offered Friday, February 1 at 10:30am and  
Saturday, February 2 at 8:30am



## Groundhog Geocaching

Geocaching is a fun outdoor treasure hunt hike using a handheld GPS (Global Positioning System). We'll teach you the basics of using a GPS then send you out in groups of 3-5 to hunt for a variety of Groundhog Day clues hidden in the streets and history of Punxsutawney. All ages welcome! Maximum registration:

10 groups (of 3-5 people)

Offered Friday, February 1 at 6pm and  
Saturday, February 2 at 3pm

## **In Barclay Square Friday, February 1<sup>st</sup> and Saturday, February 2<sup>nd</sup>**

- \***Snowshoe Shadow Walk:** Try on a pair of snowshoes as you walk around in Barclay Square! Tyke snowshoes are available for children under 40 lbs.
- \* **Fire building Workshop:** Learn how to start a (small) fire in a personal aluminum pan! Parents must assist children under age 12.
- \* **Shelter building Workshop:** It's cold out here! Can you make a shelter that would keep Punxsutawney Phil warm and safe? Learn how in this workshop. Free!

# THE ANNUAL GROUNDHOG CLUB BANQUET

The Annual Groundhog Club Banquet will be held on Friday, February 1st, 2019 at the Punxsutawney Area High School. The doors will open at 6 p.m. and dinner will start at 6:30 p.m. Jeff Lundy, Fair Weatherman of the Inner Circle, will serve as the master of ceremonies. The Man and Woman of the Year for Punxsutawney will be announced, as well as, the new Ambassadors of the Groundhog Club. The Banquet will be catered by Luigi's Italian Restaurant.

This year's speaker for the Annual Groundhog Banquet will be WTAJ-TV Chief Meteorologist, Joe Murgo. Jeff Lundy, the master of ceremonies states, "Joe has broadcasted live from the Knob on Groundhog Day for more than a decade and we consider him our Phil Connors. The Inner Circle is absolutely delighted that he was able to arrange his schedule to also be our guest speaker this year."

Well known to people in the region, Murgo has been a fixture on Gobbler's Knob on Groundhog Day for many years. He was born in Brooklyn, N.Y. but also lived in places such as Tulsa, Ok., and Morgantown, WV, which allowed him to experience different types of climates and weather throughout his lifetime.

Murgo received his Bachelor of Science degree in meteorology from Penn State in 1990. For several years he served as Senior Meteorologist with AccuWeather in State College, forecasting and broadcasting to radio stations and providing critical forecasts for television stations across the nation. He then moved on to television, joining the forecasting team at WTOV-TV in Steubenville, Ohio and followed that up with time at WUSA-TV in Washington D.C.

Returning to central Pennsylvania, Murgo accepted the position of Chief Meteorologist for WTAJ-TV in 2001 and became the state's first Certified Broadcast Meteorologist, a designation awarded by the American Meteorological Society.

Murgo shares his love and knowledge of meteorology by teaching introductory courses to students at Penn State's Altoona Campus. He is married to Mara and has two daughters, Kristen and Rebecca. He loves to be involved with many community events, during the winter, you can catch him on the ski slopes. For over 18 years, Murgo has covered Groundhog Day for his viewing audience from his spot near Punxsutawney Phil's stump at Gobbler's Knob.

Tickets are \$30 apiece and include a served buffet style meal.

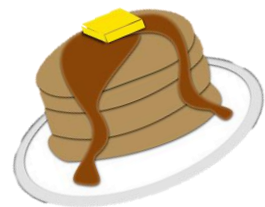
Man and Woman of the Year forms can be picked up and returned at the GHC Headquarters and the Punxsutawney Chamber of Commerce. All nominations must be sealed and submitted by Saturday, January 18th at Noon to the Punxsutawney Chamber of Commerce.

If you have someone you would like to nominate to be an Ambassador of the Groundhog Club, please contact the GHC or visit [www.groundhog.org](http://www.groundhog.org). All nominations must be submitted by January 20th, 2019.



**[Click Here to Purchase  
Tickets for the Annual  
Banquet!](#)**





# Breakfast with Phil & Groundhog Tour!

Sunday, January 27<sup>th</sup> 2019



8 a.m.- 11 a.m.

Gobbler's Knob, 1548 Woodland Ave Ext.

Join us for breakfast with Phil! Bring your camera for pictures of Punxsutawney Phil and the Inner Circle! You may also purchase tickets for a 45-minute guided tour around town that includes a commentary ride on the Groundhog Bus!

The tour space is limited!

There will be 4 times for the tour: 9 a.m.,  
10 a.m., 11 a.m., and Noon

The menu includes your choices of the following: French toast sticks, pancakes, sausage, bacon scrambled eggs, fruit, breakfast potatoes, coffee, tea, milk, or juice.

**Breakfast Only Prices:** \$10 per adult • \$5 per child 12- 3 years old • Kid's under 2 are Free

**Breakfast & Tour Prices:** \$20 per adult • \$10 per child 12-3 years old • Kids under 2 are Free

For Tickets visit: [www.groundhog.org](http://www.groundhog.org), call 814-618-5591, or visit the GHC Headquarters 200 W. Mahoning St. Punxsutawney PA

## Trivia Question

The first 3 people to answer correctly will win a Phil Bead Necklace!

**Question:** Name one other person that makes the annual trek on Groundhog Day other than the Inner Circle.

Submit your answers to  
[director@ghogclub.com](mailto:director@ghogclub.com)

## The Groundhog Club is on...

Make sure to follow us on  
Instagram—punxsyphil



## Groundhog Day Busing Info

### How to get to the Knob for the Celebration:

**Walking to the Knob:** Those that are making the trek on foot are invited to park at Brackman Chevrolet Buick Walkers Lot. The address is 600 E Mahoning St. This lot is 1.3 Miles from Gobbler's Knob. \*\* This is not a busing location. \*\*

**Taking the bus to the Knob:** Buses to Gobbler's Knob will run from 3 a.m. until 6:30 a.m. from the following locations:

- **McDonalds** 102 N. Findley St. ( GPS Coordinates: 40.9438783, -78.97093589999997) Downtown Punxsutawney, parking available on the streets and in public parking lots downtown.)
- **Punxsy Plaza**, 545 West Mahoning St., Punxsutawney (GPS Coordinates: 40.94148, -78.983664). There is parking available in the Punxsy Plaza lot. This is the suggested parking lot for charter buses.
- **Wal-Mart**, 21920 Route 119, Punxsutawney (GPS coordinates: 40.929646, -78.982713). There is parking available in the Wal-Mart lot.

### Ticket Prices/ Ticket Booths

Ticket Booths for the Knob buses will open at 2 a.m. Ticket prices for the buses to the Knob are \$5 per person, 12 years of age and under ride for free. There will be two ticket booths at McDonald's, two ticket booths at Punxsy Plaza, and two ticket booths at Wal-Mart. The last bus to the Knob will be at 6:30 a.m., at that point there will not be any more busing going to the Knob.

### Handicapped Parking

There are a limited number of handicapped parking passes available for Gobbler's Knob. For a pass contact the GHC. Additional parking is available at the Punxsy Plaza parking lot. We will have a handicapped accessible bus available for transportation. It will run the same route and times as the Knob Bus.

**GHC Contact information:** [director@ghogclub.com](mailto:director@ghogclub.com) or 814-618-5591.

# GROUNDHOG DAY 2019

**[Click Here](#) to See the Schedule and Guide!**

**Breakfast with Phil**

**The Preliminary to Gobbler's Knob Got Talent**

**Groundhog Day Celebration in Barclay Square**

**The GHC Members Only Reception**

**The Annual Groundhog Club Banquet**

**Cutting Edge Dueling Pianos**

**Groundhog Day at Gobbler's Knob**

**The Groundhog Ball**

Sunday, January 27<sup>th</sup>

Sunday, January 27<sup>th</sup>

Friday, February 1<sup>st</sup> - Sunday, February 3<sup>rd</sup>

Friday, February 1<sup>st</sup>

Friday, February 1<sup>st</sup>

Friday, February 1<sup>st</sup>

Saturday, February 2<sup>nd</sup>

Saturday, February 2<sup>nd</sup>

Other Great Events: The Groundhog Grub Food Tour, Phantastic Phil Walking Tours, Phil 101, Weddings, Kids Corner, Musicians, Magicians, Groundhog Bingo, and much more!

For more details about Groundhog Day 2019 visit [www.groundhog.org](http://www.groundhog.org).

## Is Groundhog Day on your Bucket List?



We are excited that Groundhog Day made your Bucket List! Are you looking for tickets for all the events? Well look no further! We compiled all the tickets to be a 'Bucket Ticket'. Click all the options you wish to add to your Bucket Ticket!

**[Click Here for the Link!](#)**



With my first official Groundhog Day fast approaching I am looking forward to many things. The most exciting experience will definitely be meeting all of Phil's Phollowers that come in from all over the world. Having previous worked at the Pantall Hotel years ago I got to witness first-hand the lenth's people go to make it here to our little town for the big day. It's that type of person who I want to share moments with on Gobbler's Knob on February 2nd. Former GHC President Bill Cooper use to say "There are a lot of serious things in life... And Groundhog Day is not one of them". Since Groundhog Day falls on a Saturday this year we are hoping we get a large crowd of people who have that same motto and we have a great, safe, exciting time up on the Knob. Let's have some fun and hope for no shadow!!!

- Jory, the newest member of the Inner Circle

## **Handler's Blog**

*By: John Griffiths*

Over the past few weeks we've hoped we were nice enough to receive a visit from Old Saint Nick, said farewell to Father Time, and greeted the New Year. A hectic time of the year for anyone to be certain. Now it is time to take a well-deserved break.....unless, of course, you live in Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania. For now begins the earnest buildup to Groundhog Day!

This year the most heralded and revered holiday to fall on February 2<sup>nd</sup>, Groundhog Day falls on a weekend again. What does that matter you ask? Well, in the words of every warehouse furniture or mattress salesman, it means “Volume, Volume, Volume”! The town of Punxsutawney will see an influx of people on a monumental scale. It means more planning for busing and events on our part. Accommodating more people at the knob as efficiently as we can. Hopefully, it will translate into increased sales for our local businesses as you purchase a memento of your visit to take home with you. We strive every day to make this a memorable and enjoyable event in every attendees life. However, all good is usually accompanied by pitfalls. No, not for the residents of Punxsutawney or The Inner Circle or most of all Punxsutawney Phil. The prognostication will happen regardless with the same amount of childlike enthusiasm we muster every year. Sadly, the pitfall may find it's way to you, our cherished attendees. I can almost sense you asking “John, what is this pitfall of which you speak”? Well, there really is only one and I fear for some of you it may already be too late. Apathy! You sit back thinking that there is no need to be in a rush to book a room, purchase tickets to the annual banquet, Breakfast with Phil, Dueling Pianos, the Hogspitality Tent as well as many others. For some of those things I fear the ship has already sailed. All of those things, plus so many others, are as much a part of Groundhog Day as is Phil's Prognostication. So, if it were me I would click out of this hastily written, rather inane post and focus on getting your plans made to visit on Groundhog Day with the intent of experiencing as much as is offered. Think of it as a competition between you and potentially 40,000 other people.

I hate to sound foreboding so I will end with this. Even if you make it to Punxsutawney and don't get to experience everything that the magic of Groundhog Day has to offer, you will still be greeted and said farewell to by some of the nicest people on God's green (or snow covered) earth.

I look forward to meeting each and every one of you!  
**HAPPY GROUNDHOG DAY!**





## Event and Ticket Update

*The Inner Circle's Groundhog Ball- Sold Out*  
*Inner Circle Section Passes- Sold Out*  
*Gobbler's Knob Parking Passes—Sold Out*  
*Hogspitality Village—Sold Out*

Dueling Pianos—Available  
Members Only Reception—Available  
Groundhog Banquet- Available  
Snowshoe Walks—Available  
Geocaching- Available  
Cornhole Tournament—Available & Free to enter



## Phil 101... and Art Show



Come again? Say what? Yes, you read that correctly. Phil is an artist! During the Phil 101 Session on Saturday, February 2<sup>nd</sup> works of art completed by Punxsutawney Phil will be on display and available for purchase! More details about how to purchase a work of art by Punxsutawney Phil will be released later this month! Keep checking [groundhog.org](http://groundhog.org) for more information!

## The GHC is now accepting applications to be a Groundhog Club Ambassador!

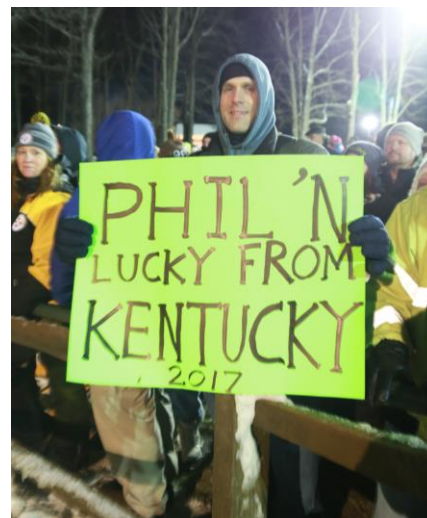
Do you know someone that goes above and beyond for Groundhog Day? They do not have to be from Punxsutawney! Phil has fans from all over the world. An Ambassador to the GHC is someone that promotes and perpetuates the legend of Phil from where ever they live! This person is a true supporter of the holiday and does things to make it extra special for others. Do you know someone that fits this criteria?

[Visit our site!](#)

## *Where to find Phil throughout the Celebration*

Sat. 1/26	Crowning of Little Mr. & Miss Groundhog
Sun. 1/27	Breakfast with Phil
Friday 2/1	Meteorologist Hall of Fame
Friday 2/1	GHC Members Only Reception
Sat. 2/2	Phil 101
Sat. 2/2	Groundhog Ball
Sun. 2/3	Weather Discovery Center

Punxsutawney Phil will be at his burrow in Barclay Square during all other times!  
*See individual schedule listings for time and location details for each of these events.*



## Groundhog Day 2019 Sponsors

**The Groundhog Club**  
200 West Mahoning  
Suite 1  
Punxsutawney, PA  
15767

**PHONE:**  
(814) 618-5591

**E-MAIL:**  
director@ghogclub.com

We're on the Web!

See us at:  
[www.groundhog.org](http://www.groundhog.org)

### Chapter Newsletters

Do you have a chapter  
update or newsletter?  
Share it with us!

### Platinum

- [Dobson, Inc.](#)
- [Proform Powdered Metals, Inc.](#)
- [Punxsutawney Eagles #1231](#)
- [Shoe Sensation, Inc.](#)
- [Standard Pennant Co, Inc.](#)

### Gold

- ISDA Club
- S&T Bank
- Rosebud Mining, Company
- Advanced Disposal
- Punxsutawney Rotary Club

### Silver

- Kendalls Kreation

### Bronze

- CRW Home Center, Inc.
- Punxsy Shop N Save
- The Medicine Shoppe

### General

- RG Pools & Supplies
- Punxsy Hometown Pharmacy
- Creative Garden Preschool & Early Learning Center
- J.R. Resources, L.P.
- Acme Machine & Welding Co.
- Paul Beatty Jewelers
- Deeley Funeral Home
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- Burke & Sons, Inc.
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**THANK YOU**  
to our sponsors

### The Punxsutawney Groundhog Club Inner Circle

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John Griffiths, *Co-Handler* AJ Dereume, *Co-Handler* Dan McGinley, *Moonshine* Pat Osikowicz, *O-Zone* Jason Grusky- *Big Chill*  
Butch Prushnok, *Coal Front* Ron Ploucha *Stump Warden* Dave Gigliotti, *Thunder Conductor* Jeff Grube, *Sky Painter*  
Tom Dunkel, *Shingle Shaker* Jory Serrian, *TBA*