

“Groundhogese”



The Official Newsletter Of The Punxsutawney Groundhog Club

The Punxsutawney Groundhog Club (814) 938-7700 Ext. 3

Seven More Years of Life!

The Groundhog Picnic was a success! Phil received his magic “Elixir of Life”! With dozens of on-lookers Phil received at least seven more years of life.

Despite the dreary weather in the morning on September, 10th, the afternoon cleared up and Phil’s fans were able to enjoy the picnic. Over 220 picnic- goers were in attendance including many first time picnic goers. Everyone enjoyed all they could eat chicken wings, sweet corn, pork, hot dogs, kielbasa, and much more!

Once everyone had their fill, it was time to make the trek. Preceding the procession of the

Inner Circle, Phil emerged from his burrow and drank the magic “Elixir of Life”. After all the excited a New York Strip Steak was served with all the trimmings. The fun continued until the last light went out. There were 18 new Groundhog Club members that joined the club.

Thank you to all those that attended and we hope to see you next year!



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Photograph of Phil

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Photograph of Phil

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Phil Makes Appearances!



Carrolltown Firemans Parade

Spaghetti Dinner for Fall 50k



Interested in Phil making an appearance?

For more information contact:
events@punxsutawney.com



Clarion County Fair



Co-Handler Ron Ploucha with Punxsutawney Phil and a fan!

Handlers Blog

John Griffiths...

My name is John Griffiths. For those of you who don't know me I am one of two people known as Phil's Handlers. For those of you that do know me, my sincerest apologies. I am writing this, the inaugural edition, of The Handler's Ramblings. It is our hope to give you an inside view of what it is like to take care of the "World's Most Famous Groundhog."



Phil does many appearances throughout the course of a year and we will delve into some of those in more depth, but for now let me just use a broad brush and try to paint a typical trip for you.

We usually make preparations the day before by moving Phil to an adjoining room just off the "Burrow". This just helps speed up the process of moving him to his carrier for the trip. That is unless he has gotten out of the cage at some point through the evening before. When that occurs it quickly turns into a safari to find which nook or cranny he has decided to hide in. Upon locating him, (our hog senses tingle) we tell him that his adoring fans are waiting and offer him a granola bar. Not sure which of the two is the deciding factor, but he does come out. We then prepare his carrier with the best alfalfa hay money can buy. We set him up with a sumptuous gourmet breakfast and a bottle of the finest mountain spring water. We enclose a copy of our local newspaper and just lately, one of his favorite books. I had found a romance novel in the burrow and Ron Ploucha (co-handler) swore it was Phil's. With carrier in the ready, it is now time to transfer Phil. While Phil loves to interact with his faithful followers, he is a bit of a prima-donna. We are required to brush his coat at least 200 strokes and his whiskers must be trimmed to his specifications. When that is done he will finally allow us to place him in the carrier. From that point on it is a waiting game to see when the rest of our brethren in the Inner Circle are going to show up in the "Philmobile". It becomes a little tense at those times as Phil taps his paw and keeps a watchful eye on the clock. Upon their (usually late) arrival we load him into the "Philmobile" and on to a purple velour cushion for his ride to the destination.

I hope you enjoyed this as much as I enjoyed writing it. It is now your task to sift through this journal and decide what fact, exaggeration, is or just big fat lies. See you next issue!

Phil Question & Answer

Q. Does Phil have children?

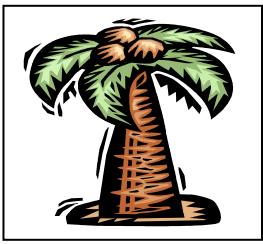
A. Phil and Phyllis decided many years ago that their schedules and celebrity status would not be good for kids so they just consider all their fans to be their family.

Q. Is Phil a pet?

A. Phil is really not a pet like a cat or a dog. He is a wild animal that is accustomed to humans but still maintains his wild, undomesticated personality.

Q. What does Phil do in his time off?

A. Phil makes many appearances throughout the year at parades, schools, and many other social events. Wherever he goes, he is the main attraction.



Hollywood Beach Bum Chapter

A chapter to not be easily forgotten from Hollywood Florida is the Hollywood Beach Bum Chapter. 'Queso Grande', Jeff Hansen, a native of California, has been to Groundhog Day in world famous Punxsutawney over 5 times! Over the course of his many trips, Hansen, formed many friendships with multiple members of the Inner Circle and still keeps in contact with them.

What does the Beach Bum Chapter do on Groundhog Day you might ask? Well, the chapter is made up of 30 lifeguards. They have an event every February 2nd to raise funds for the Hollywood Beach Lifeguard Competition Team. This past year they had upwards to 300 participants! With a live video feed they witness the blistery weather and Phil's Prognostication while they enjoy the surf, sand, and celebrates with a jump into the ocean. In 2011 they were honored to have one of Punxsutawney's finest, Past President of the Inner Circle, Bill Cooper.



Chapter News



Do you have Chapter Updates or Pictures?

Submit them to events@punxsutawney.com

"The Outer Circle"

The Outer Circle is a chapter of the Groundhog Club from the South Hills of Pittsburgh and the surrounding areas. They have been a chapter for 2 years.

With more than a dozen members already, they are continuing to grow.

They have a newsletter that keeps everyone updated on the current happenings of their chapter. The founders of the chapter, Anthony and Deana Skariot, have participated in the Groundhog Day celebration on February 2nd. They had a dozen of their members make the journey from Pittsburgh to attend the Groundhog Club's Annual Picnic. As a club they host their own picnic for their members where they collect donations for local animal shelters. They also hold a toy drive in the Christmas season. Last year they were able to donate more than 300 toys to local charities. They have a goal of 500 toys this year that they wish to donate! What a commendable chapter!

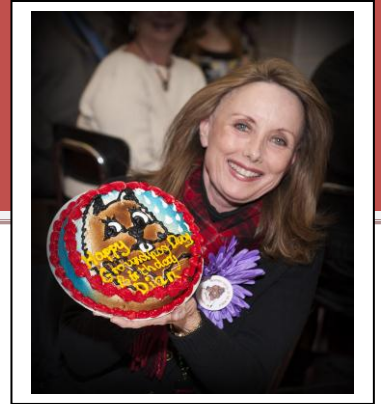


What is your best memory from attending Groundhog Day?

“Including shopping up and down the main street and at our hotel, attending the Banquet and saying the Pledge of Allegiance, our reconnaissance trip to Gobbler’s Knob and our first sight of the official location, and Breakfast with Phil where we got to speak to Phil – what a memory-filled adventure the Groundhog Day celebration was.” – Big “D” Philettes

Do you have a favorite memory about Groundhog Day?
Share it with us!

events@punxsutawney.com or at
102 West Mahoning Street, Punxsutawney PA 15767



Worldwide Adventures of Phil

Over the years, Punxsutawney Phil has had visitors from all over the world that come and see him on Groundhog Day and at his burrow. Now he wants to visit you!

Make sure you show Phil all the sites in your town and have him meet your family and friends. As you show Phil around, take pictures of his adventures and submit them. They will be posted on Phil’s Facebook page and www.groundhog.org.

If interested in *Punxsutawney Phil’s Worldwide Adventures* please email or mail your mailing address so we can send you a photo of Phil. Once you have shown him around your town, please submit your photos with Phil to:

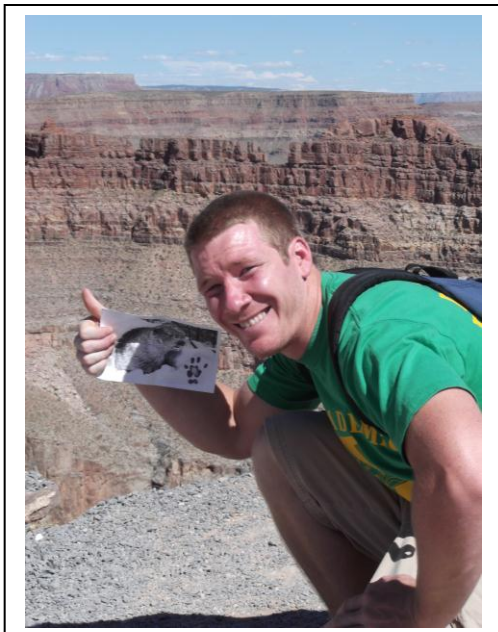
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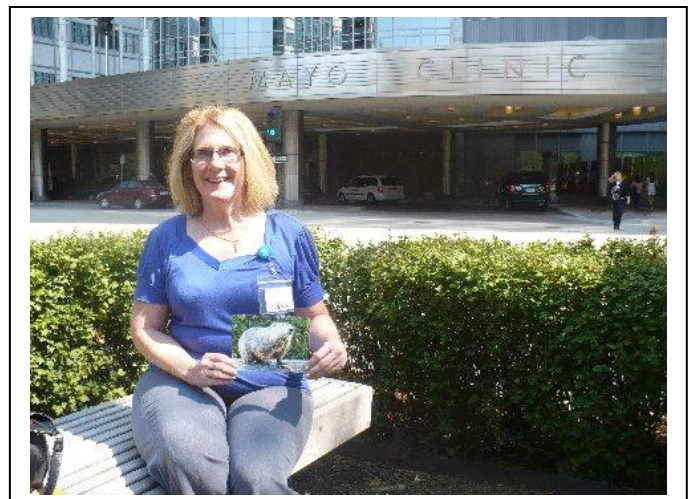
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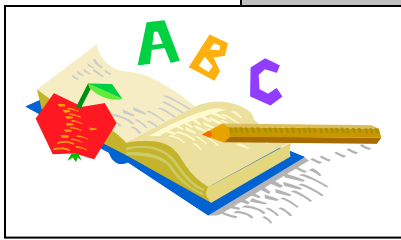
Al from NJ at the Leaning Tower of
Pisa



Shaun from PA at the Grand Canyon



Pamela from MN at the Mayo Clinic
in Rochester MN



Coming Soon!--- New Teacher and Children Materials!

Perhaps the greatest and most underrated aspect of Groundhog Day is that it is still FREE to attend! In a time when it seems that every organization is only concerned about more money, money, money, the Groundhog Club has kept with its long-standing tradition of letting thousands and thousands of people simply walk in and enjoy our wonderful holiday without paying a dime.

With that spirit in mind, the Club is again offering up its resources free of charge, this time to teachers, students, and parents worldwide through their website *Groundhog.org*. While most other teacher websites charge membership fees or pay-as-you-go systems, *Groundhog.org* has always allowed users to download its classroom activities for free. Some very major improvements will be made to the already popular "Teachers" section of the website.

First, the number of activities will triple, with roughly 50 different games, worksheets, and puzzles available. Next, the activities will be organized by educational level (Elementary, Middle School, and High School) and by subject area (Math, Science, English, Social Studies, Music, Art, and Consumer Science), allowing users to find the activities that they need quickly. Finally, most of the activities will be available in a ".doc" format, allowing users to make changes to the activities after downloading them to suit their individual classroom needs.

The Groundhog Club wants to be (and rightfully so) the premier provider of Groundhog Day-related activities. So check out *Groundhog.org*, and click on the "Teachers" section, to find abundant free resources for teachers and students of any grade level!

Let us know what you think... go to the "Contact Us" link to let us know what other changes you would like to see to the website in the future.

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 Ext. 3

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 (708) 555-0102

E-MAIL:
events@punxsutawney.com



We're on the Web!
 See us at:
www.groundhog.org

The Groundhog Club

As a member of the Punxsutawney Groundhog Club, you will receive an official membership card signed by the official keeper of the Legend of Punxsutawney Phil, the President of the Groundhog Club. You will also receive a copy of his "Official Proclamation" made annually on February 2 and advance notice of the activities planned for the annual Groundhog Day Celebration.

Prior to the anniversary date of your membership you will receive renewal information. Club updates will be posted on our website www.groundhog.org.

Phil Trivia

AUGUST 2011 PHIL TRIVIA WINNERS!

Lauren from Munhall, PA
Megan from Pittsburgh, PA
Joan from Greensburg, PA



What was Punxsutawney Phil called in the 1900's?

*The first 3 people to answer correctly will receive a plush Phil.
 Please include your answer, name, and mailing address.*

Please submit answers to: events@punxsutawney.com

Or

The Groundhog Club
 102 West Mahoning Street
 Punxsutawney, PA 15767

The Punxsutawney Groundhog Club Inner Circle

Bill Deeley, <i>President</i>	Mike Johnston, <i>Vice President</i>	Jon Johnston, <i>Chief Healthman</i>
Bob Roberts, <i>His Protector</i>	Butch Philliber, <i>Iceman</i>	Ron Ploucha, <i>Co-Handler</i>
Keith Shields, <i>Head Hailmaker</i>	John Griffiths, <i>Co-Handler</i>	Jason Grusky- <i>Big Chill</i>
Ed Jekielek, <i>Storm Chaser</i>	AJ Dereume, <i>Rainmaker</i>	Tom Uberti, <i>Big Windmaker</i>
Jeff Lundy, <i>Fair Weatherman</i>	Dave Gigliotti, <i>Thunder Conductor</i>	Jeff Grube, <i>Sky Painter</i>