

August 2011

# “Groundhogese”

The Official Newsletter Of The Punxsutawney Groundhog Club



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

•Get your tickets for the Groundhog Picnic Today!

- Plan to attend a Phil Appearance!
- Submit updates about your chapter!



## Page Highlights

Phil Appearances	2
Handlers Blog	3
Chapter News	4
Pittsburgh	5
Sam Adams	5
Phil Trivia	6

## Annual Groundhog Club Picnic

Circle the date, Saturday September 10<sup>th</sup>. It's time for the annual Groundhog Club picnic again.

For a mere \$15 per ticket, the faithful will gather at Gobblers Knob to celebrate Punxsutawney Phil and consume large quantities of food and beverage in his honor. The picnic starts at 1:00 p.m. and continues until, well, until it's over. Open to all true believers 21 and older, it is the Groundhog Clubs' second biggest event of the year, eclipsed only by Groundhog Day itself!

Starting with whole roasted pig, kielbasa, chicken wings and hot dogs all afternoon, the evening meal will be a New York strip steak dinner with baked potato and coleslaw. Fresh local grown sweet corn will be served the entire day. Wash that down with

your favorite soft drink or adult beverage, and you've got a great deal.

The annual trek to the Knob where Phil drinks the magic "Elixir of Life" happens between 3:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m. The Elixir gives Phil seven more years of life and is the reason he is 126 years old, so you don't want to miss this. Phil is generally around most of the picnic, so if you haven't seen him up close and personal, the picnic is a great opportunity.

With big screen TVs, small games of chance, horseshoes, card games etc., the picnic always has

something for everybody. Tickets are available from the Chamber of Commerce and all the Inner Circle members. You can also buy them the day of the picnic at the gate. Rain or shine we'll see you at the knob September 10th.

**Any questions please contact:**

Katie Bullers

102 West Mahoning Street

Punxsutawney, PA 15767

814-938-7700 Ext. 3

[events@punxsutawney.com](mailto:events@punxsutawney.com)



# Upcoming Phil Appearances

## “Groundhogese”

**Date:** August 14<sup>th</sup>, 2011  
**Time:** 3:00p.m.- 4:00 p.m.  
**Location:**  
Carrolltown, PA  
**Description:** Annual  
Fireman Parade



**Date:** October 1, 2011  
**Time:** 10:00a.m. - 12:00  
p.m.  
**Location:**  
Thistle and Pine  
7570 Route 119  
Marion Center, PA  
15759

**Description:** 5<sup>th</sup> Annual  
Celtic Festival with  
entertainment including  
bag pipes, highland  
dancers, an Irish Band  
and Fiddlers, and Gaelic  
Classes



### Interested in Phil making an appearance?

For more information contact:  
[events@punxsutawnev.com](mailto:events@punxsutawnev.com)

## Phil Makes Appearances!



West Penn Miata Club Visit



Phil Enjoyed Antiques with Visitors



July 2nd Fireman's Parade



Meeting Fans  
at the  
Chamber of  
Commerce

# Handlers Blog

*Ron Ploucha...*

Although I've been a member of the Inner Circle for 14 years, my experience with actually handling Phil has been very limited. That is, until late February of this year when I assumed the duties as Phil's Co-Handler alongside John Griffiths. I received my baptism by fire (or should I say by groundhog poo!) as I was given a crash course in the Do's and Don'ts of being a handler and I was on my way. Most people see us one day of the year or maybe on the special occasions where Phil makes appearances,

but the job of handler is 365 days a year. Each day either John or I must attend to the needs of Phil, his wife Phyllis, and cousins Ray and Barney. They need to be fed, their living quarters must be kept clean, and, of course, they need to have human contact. I have also been using this time to bond with Phil so that he is comfortable with me and vice versa. Other than the rather messy and smelly task of cleaning the zoo, I am thoroughly enjoying my time as Phil's Co-Handler. I get to meet

and have my picture taken (holding Phil of course) with countless people from all walks of life, from the very young to those confined to nursing homes and everyone in between. I am looking forward with much anticipation to Groundhog Day 2012 as that will be my first official Groundhog Day as Phil's Co-Handler.



## Phil Question & Answer

**Q. How many Phil's have there been?**

*A. Phil never needs replacing because Phil is immortal. In late summer each year, Phil drinks a magic elixir which gives him 7 more years of life. And NO...it doesn't work on humans so don't ask.*

**Q. Does the crowd noise effect his decision on Groundhog Day?**

*A. Phil loves the crowd noise. It gets him psyched up for his big prognostication.*

**Q. Does with eat organic?**

*A. Phil does eat organic - alfalfa, vegetables, fruits, and once in a while, an organic Handler's finger!*

**Q. Is Phil tame?**

*A. Phil is not tame. He is simply accustomed to being around humans. He lives in a man-made burrow which allows him to have a life similar to that of wild groundhogs (except he gets fed on a regular schedule, has check-ups with a vet, goes on trips with the Inner Circle, and has his picture take thousands of times every year).*

# Chapter News



## Temple Coffee Philters

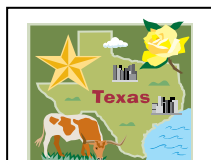
Upon submitting their application after the celebration of Groundhog Day 2011, the Temple Coffee Philters were established. The Temple Coffee Philters reside in LaPorte, Indiana and are headquartered in a coffee and ice cream parlor. There are eleven active members of the ‘Temple Coffee Philters’. They are having their first official meeting on August 2<sup>nd</sup> and will be passing out their posters, top hats and other items.



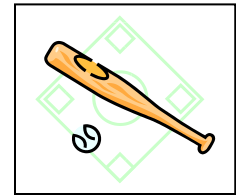
Do you have Chapter Updates or Pictures?

Submit them to [events@punxsutawney.com](mailto:events@punxsutawney.com)

## Big D “Philettes” Chapter



Flowers blooming on February 2<sup>nd</sup> in Punxsutawney? You bet. The Philettes of the Phil’s Dallas Texas Chapter, officially “The Big D Philettes”, were prepared for an early spring displaying throughout their visit beautiful handmade flowers. Punxsutawians have had the opportunity of hosting and meeting people from across this great country and around the world, but none more lovely than the Ladies from Dallas. Their enthusiasm and energy made believers out of all of us who had the pleasure to meet them that they do things bigger in Texas. And although the Ladies were loyal to their “America’s Team” we think secretly we have some new members of “Steeler Nation.” They are shown here at the Annual Banquet where one of the Philettes was sung “Happy Birthday” by the appreciative audience.



## PHIL’S TRIP TO THE PITTSBURGH

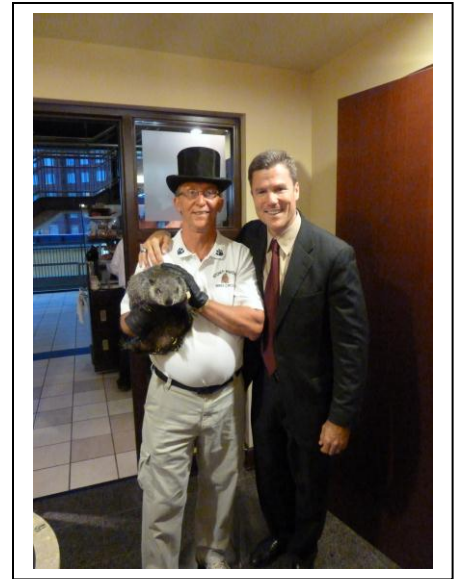
What is the difference between Punxsutawney Phil and Pittsburgh Pirate Parrot? One appears in front of thousands of screaming fans surrounded by men dressed in special attire and brimmed hats and the other appears in front of thousands of screaming fans surrounded by men dressed in special attire and top hats. Oh, and one is a live animal, the other, not so much.

On June 24, 2011, the Inner Circle and Punxsutawney Phil made a special appearance at beautiful

PNC Park to cheer the surging Buccos on to victory over the Boston Red Soxes. President Bill Deeley and Past President Bill Cooper led the group in the Philmobile through downtown Pittsburgh and on to the game. While at the stadium, Phil maintained his warm celebrity status being stopped throughout by adoring fans for photos. The President of the Pirate organization, Frank Coonelly, got his picture taken with Phil and Handler Ron Ploucha. Right after the

photo, as translated by Bill Deeley in Groundhogese, Phil discussed with President Coonelly several minor league prospects with suggesting the Pirates should trade up with the Reds for Punxsy native, Devin Mesoraco.

The Inner Circle thanks our hosts Mark Gordon and Bill Pietragallo and the Pirates for a great evening and Phil looks forward to appearing again in Pittsburgh for the annual Saint Patrick’s Day parade.



Handler Ron Ploucha, Phil, and President of the Pittsburgh Pirates, Frank Coonelly

## SAMUEL ADAMS BEER FOUNDER KOCH

Jim Koch, CEO of Boston Beer Co., travels around the world seeking ingredients for Samuel Adams beer. But this February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2011, the founder of the Samuel Adams Boston Lager traveled to Punxsutawney, not looking to enhance his award winning beer, but to pay homage to fellow television celebrity Punxsutawney Phil. Jim was the special guest for the Inner Circle’s Annual Groundhog Banquet and for the day long festivities.

Mike Johnston, Vice President of the Groundhog Club was pleased to declare the teaming up with Boston Beer and having the Sam Adams Noble Pils as the official beer for Groundhog Day, February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2011. At the banquet Jim entertained the four hundred plus guests with a history of the important historic role of beer in American culture, starting with the Mayflower. He enthusiastically accepted his one day appointment as an Honorary Member of the

Inner Circle. The Inner Circle welcomes Jim, and of course his Sam Adam’s Lagers, back anytime.





**The Groundhog Club**  
**102 West Mahoning**  
**Punxsutawney, PA**  
**15767**

**PHONE:**  
 (814)938-7700  
 Ext. 3

**FAX:**  
 (708) 555-0102

**E-MAIL:**  
 events@punxsutawney.com



We're on the Web!  
 See us at:  
[www.groundhog.org](http://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](http://www.groundhog.org).

## Phil Trivia

**What is the largest crowd ever present at Gobbler's Knob for Groundhog Day?**

*The first 5 people to answer correctly will receive a photograph of Phil. Please include your answer, name, and mailing address.*

Please submit answers to: [events@punxsutawney.com](mailto: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>	Jeff Grube, <i>Sky Painter</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>TBA</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>	Jon Johnston, <i>TBA</i>