

THE OUTER CIRCLE



Official Newsletter of the Outer Circle Groundhog Club

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Edited by Anthony Skariot



There are just about 4 weeks left to go for this winter. It was a trying year to be at Gobbler's Knob for Punxsutawney Phil's prognostication. Surprisingly, no one fell while on stage at the Knob. A few hours of snow late Sunday night turned to rain, which turned the aforementioned snow into ice as it compressed. Then, in the low lying levels, the continuing rain began to puddle. There were quite a few "doozies" around downtown Punxsutawney.



Lots of other activities took place around town and Barclay Square; Goble's Knob's Got Talent, the art show, Denny Huber's magic show, groundhog painting, chainsaw carving, Oreo stacking, top hat decorating, vendors and crafts to name a few. Let's not forget the photo scavenger hunt. (Those will be the random pictures on the website that look like they were taken by a drunken 4 year old.) Groundhog 101 and a few other events were forced to be relocated from the Celebration Tent after an unforeseen circumstance. During the night, the weight of the snow and ice pushed the center pole of the tent into the ground and collapsed the tent. Luckily Denny Huber and his sound system were not inside. We wish the tent a speedy recovery.



Toys from Phil did happen this past December. It was definitely a lackluster year compared to previous campaigns. The perfect storm of wind and rain, a lack of Black Friday deals, the drop offs being relocated, and limited donations hampered the efforts, but it could not be stopped. Thanks to those who contributed. The candy bar well appears to be dried up, so we're going to need to pump some new life into the club's annual event. Submit your ideas.



What did you do for Groundhog Day?

Were you at the Knob? Did you have a party at work? Did you go to the ball? Did you watch the telecast at home? Share your experiences. Tell us your stories or share your pictures.

These are from an office party organized by Susan Raineri and Stacy Thomas that raised more than \$100 for the Make a Wish Foundation. They plan on continuing the tradition.



Here's an account from Sanford Bendix:

"I went dancing at the Inner Circle Groundhog Ball on January 30 (Friday night). It is a very nice dress-up event. The band they hired is the same one they've had for the last four years, ever since the ball's inception. As always, the band's performance is absolutely superb; IMHO you can't get any better than what they did. High energy, excellent song choices, and the music and singing were performed to perfection. These experts definitely know how to get the people on the dance floor. I told them they should, on this one day, honorarily change their band's name to "Phil's Harmonic Orchestra." Although they were generally playing more contemporary music, the final dance, to my surprise, was "The Twist" coupled with "Let's Twist Again." It brought back memories of when I used to dance the twist in the early 1960's with a cute red-head; that night I did the twist with a blonde! Also dancing at the event was the Inner Circle's guest of honor for this year, a lovely young woman wearing a silver tiara, a green dress with sequins, and a sash that said "Miss Ohio." Yep... she is the 2015 state contestant currently representing Ohio from the Miss America pageant, and a top-ten finalist to boot."