

THE PHELLOWSHIP PHRONT

Volume 20 (2nd generation)

☆ Special Edition ☆ FESTIVAL 8 ☆



*our new logo! designed by phells, voted on by phells on
phellowship.net*

Hello PHANS!!! and welcome to FESTIVAL 8 in INDIO, CALIFORNIA. We meet again for Phish's 8th festival which is shaping up to be an incredible weekend of music, food, dancing, costumes, the8ter, camping, album covers, acoustic sets, doughnuts and phellowship! And with the announcement of a FALL TOUR, phans couldn't be more excited. Without a doubt, Phish is back!

Who are we?

The Phellowship is a group of Phish Heads who choose to remain drug and alcohol free. We are not affiliated with any other sober music-fan organization or recovery program. The Phellowship has absolutely no opinion on the issue of drugs and alcohol, and neither condemns or condones it. Our simple purpose is to provide "**phellowship**," support and information to those who seek the comfort and camaraderie of other clean and sober people at shows. The only requirement for membership is a desire to stay substance-free at shows. Though The Phellowship consists primarily of those recovering from addiction, we are open to anyone who wishes to remain clean and sober at shows.



What is our mission?

It is not our intention to segregate ourselves from the greater Phish community. Sometimes the predominance of intoxicating substances at shows and on tour can be trying for those people who choose to remain clean and sober. It is our hope that knowledge of The Phellowship's experience will help those in need realize they are not alone; that others are nearby with whom they share a common bond. With comfort and security in place, they may join in, and experience the freedom and joy that Phish is really all about. We hope that The Phellowship will offer a bridge to those in need so that all individuals may join in and... **GET BACK ON THE TRAIN!**



A little history...

The Phellowship has had a presence on the Phish.Net since early 1996 with the first official meeting not occurring until Halloween of that year at the Omni in Atlanta, GA. It was there that a fledgling group of clean and sober fans were allowed to set up a table inside the venue to serve as a meeting place for those who choose to remain clean and sober at shows. After a few more gatherings met with success that fall, the group came back in the summer of 1997 and has been on Phish tour ever since. (With a break between Coventry 04 and Hampton 09)

In that time, membership has blossomed and thousand's of people have come to know The Phellowship, several calling themselves members. Whether recovering from addiction or just choosing to refrain from mind altering substances, teams of clean and sober fans gather at the table each night of tour and share in the freedom and joy that seeing Phish is all about. Having absolutely no opinion on issues relating to drugs or alcohol, **The Phellowship wishes to simply make itself available to those who seek a clean and sober environment at shows.**

FALL TOUR

- 11.18.09 Cobo Arena, Detroit, MI
- 11.20.09 U.S. Bank Arena, Cincinnati, OH
- 11.21.09 U.S. Bank Arena, Cincinnati, OH
- 11.22.09 War Memorial at Oncenter, Syracuse, NY
- 11.24.09 Wachovia Center, Philadelphia, PA
- 11.25.09 Wachovia Center, Philadelphia, PA
- 11.27.09 Times Union Center, Albany, NY
- 11.28.09 Times Union Center, Albany, NY
- 11.29.09 Cumberland County Civic Center, Portland, ME
- 12.02.09 Madison Square Garden, New York, NY
- 12.03.09 Madison Square Garden, New York, NY
- 12.04.09 Madison Square Garden, New York, NY
- 12.05.09 John Paul Jones Arena, Charlottesville, VA



LOOK what's in store for us this weekend...

THE OVERLOOK + THE COIL ☆ THE HOUSE OF LIVE PHISH ☆ KURODA KNOWS HOW TO LIGHT A PALM OR TWO OR THREE ☆ THE RETURN OF THE BUNNY 95.9 FM ☆ EIGHTH ANNUAL SCENT OF A MULE HORSESHOE TOURNAMENT ☆ COFFEE & DONUTS ACOUSTIC. LATE ☆ FESTIVAL CERTIFIED FARMER'S MARKET ☆

☆ and now a few words from our phamily ☆

Hi kidz! Welcome to the 8th Phish festival in history and the 7th one the Phellowship has officially been part. The camaraderie at specific shows throughout tour is an amazing thing...but to be able to spend an entire long weekend together as a PHAMILY has a special magic of its own. Helping each other, being there for a phellow friend, eating, dancing, camping, sharing at meetings, and the insanity and laughing is a "buzz" that can only be experienced by being part of the whole festival experience.. Unfortunately, this is the FIRST major Phish Phest I cannot attend a since The Clifford Ball due to physical and life type issues. The "rebirth" of the Phellowship since Hampton has been a miracle, and I have gratitude deep down in my soul for its continuance. Remember, we are guest here in Indio, and it is a privilege for us to be set up and having been offered a "Home base". Despite the different lifestyles people choose to pursue during the festival, remember we are all **"PART OF, NOT SEPARATE FROM"** the entire Phish community and something I've worked hard over these past 13+ years to create. It is to that end I hope our presence can help ourselves feel safe, secure, and have fun, but being there for maybe those one, two, or three people who are on the fence regarding getting or becoming clean and sober at shows and showing them by example what living "Happy, joyous, and Free" is truly all about. The Halloweens in Vegas are some of my most fondest memories with you crazy guys. Let me know if you want to be of service at a table near you and I'll see you somewhere, sometime on Fall tour. Love and Hugs, Robert

I was a month sober when Phish announced their breakup and their final show in Coventry. The previous month I had lost my job, my wife was on the way out the door, and I was about to lose the ability to practice my chosen profession. In essence, I had no business being at Coventry. Regardless I bought plane and festival tickets and made plans to attend. During June and July, I had been "trying" to work on my 4th step, but had made little significant progress. We flew in and rented a car and drove to the festival site. The camping sites were soaked. We sat in line, in our rented car, for upwards of 24 hours. Mike came on the radio and made the announcement that people would be turned away. This was not what I wanted to hear. Grabbed the tent and some clothes and hiked my way to the show. I duck-taped my feet because of the blisters. I spent the next 2 days in various emotional states. Happy, sad, pissed, confused, depressed, elated. I experienced it all. Mostly though as I trudged through knee deep mud to see a band I loved fall on their collective faces I was grateful. Seeing Phish fail so miserably and feeling the bad vibes that were everywhere (admittedly, this was my perception of the situation) at Coventry sealed my recovery fate. I knew then that I was through with that lifestyle. Phish was broke, as was I. But I was going to heal regardless of Phish. On the plane ride home it hit me. **Phish wasn't breaking up so that I could get sober, but I could get sober and Phish breaking up would be a part of that.** As I reflected during that weekend in Vermont I had learned some of the most important sobriety lessons I've ever learned. For starters, I could be in that environment, if my spiritual condition was right, and not be tempted. But that was a small lesson and one I didn't realize until later. Most importantly, I learned that my Higher Power would look after me no matter what. This was the 3rd step for me. No wonder I couldn't finish my fourth step. I hadn't really taken the 3rd. (I knocked that 4th step out in 2 days after returning home). I believe my HP put me there because I needed to see how my life would play out if I kept down that road. The HP cleared the obstacles and spoke to me in a way even I couldn't miss. What's more, I realized that it was border line insanity to be willing to fly across the country, sit in an unmoving car for 24 hours, hike 12 miles in ratty birks and camp in a mudhole, all so I could see a band; but that I was willing to do just that. If I was willing to go to any lengths to see Phish, I was going to have to be willing to go to any lengths to stay sober. Thanks to 12 step programs and my HP I've been sober ever since and I still use those lessons today. **Mike Renick Little Rock, AR**

My name is Paul and I am a member of the Phellowship. I just wanted to take this opportunity to say thanks for being there when I needed you. I have been sober for a little over 8 years now and life keeps getting better and better as a result of working the 12 steps and going to meetings. I never dreamed I would be where I am today let alone be able to enjoy Phish shows clean and sober. I was lucky enough to get sober during the hiatus of 2001, if Phish hadn't taken a break I don't know where I would be today. Because of the hiatus my first sober Phish show was in Greensboro in 2003 and what a show it was. Since then I have gone on several road trips to see Phish and have met some really amazing people who are part of this phellowship. It is so refreshing to know that I can be in the midst of so much chaos and have a place to go when I am feeling lost or fearful. I was truly amazed at the Hampton comeback run to see how much the recovery scene has grown among the Phish community. A truly amazing moment for me was to see a friend from my old hometown at Hampton, who I had not spoken with since the Sugarbush shows in 1995, and to be reunited around the Phellowship table. To see new people come around and watch the fear leave their eyes as they realize they can make it through a show without getting loaded. Being at a Phish show and being a part of someone's spiritual awakening is nothing short of amazing and I can't wait to experience it again. The last Hampton run has put me over the 50 show mark, although I lost count a long time ago, and I enjoy going to shows now so much more than I EVER did when I was using drugs and drinking. Little did I know that the peace I was looking for was in sobriety, when I look back I can see this is what I really wanted but didn't know how to get it. Thanks to groups such as this one I can carry the message of hope and recovery into a scene I was hesitant about returning to. Again, thanks for all of the service and helping me helping you. Have fun and stay safe. Paul in NC

Hello friends, my name is Joe and I'm a grateful recovering alcoholic/addict/garbage head. My sobriety date is 9/23/2004. I was getting drunk every day and I was in college at the time, but had already dropped 2 semesters due to not going to any classes. I was drinking more than a fifth every day. After little more than a month, I realized I had been drunk for so long that I wasn't getting drunk anymore. I decided to go to my parents to dry out for a few days, and was hoping that would be enough so I could get drunk again afterwards. But my (HP) had different plans for me. That first night, the first night without a drink in a probably years, I had 2 seizures and ended up in the hospital. I remember the civil worker at the hospital talking to me about treatment and AA, and that I could happily not drink ever again. I had a moment of clarity there and I agreed to go into a treatment center for 30 days. When I got out, I found a sponsor and started working the steps. the following spring, I re-enrolled in school, finished my degree in Electrical Engineering. Looking back on it, those two years of learning how to live sober were the two toughest years of my life. By the time I graduated, I had learned to be comfortable in my own skin, how to have fun, had picked up a few hobbies, and started dating a girl (who I am still dating today, 2 ½ years later). After working for two years, I decided I wanted to go to law school, so I started taking the LSAT and applying. I was accepted to my first choice school and am currently in my first year of law school! I never forgot about my love for music and when I heard about Hampton, I got really excited about music and Phish again. I was crushed when I did not get tickets. But Phish announced summer tour and I went to see them in Asheville & Knoxville. The experience of seeing my favorite band sober moved me like I had never been moved before! I remember tearing up while thinking how grateful I am to be sober and at a phish show! Phish was in the northeast for the conclusion of summer tour 2009, so I immediately jumped on the chance to get tickets for the last 5 shows. Again, I was brought to tears by the realization that I was seeing Phish again, was having the best time of my life, and was doing all of this SOBER! I am so grateful, happy, and honored to be a part of this fellowship. I met many new friends at the tables this summer, and look forward to meeting many more of you. Thank you all for being a part of this wonderful experience! Joe T. Raleigh, NC

i can't express how much this phellowship has changed my life in the last year. it was October last year i signed up to the phellowship yahoo forum, and my phish life (and my everyday life..) just keeps getting better and better. there is NOTHING like working the table at a show! if you haven't done it yet, do it! love, ☺, hugs to my phells. XO amanda m

Hi my name is jay. I took on the responsibility of keeping the Phellowship bin stocked. Please contact me at (860)480-1137 or at jayoz9500@hotmail.com if anything in the bin is running low. Should I stay or should I go, Indio or not and waiting till the last minute to write this, after all I am working some tables on fall tour and i'm an addict in recovery. I was offered 2 free tickets to fest 8. The responsible thing to do is stay home take care of work and other pressing thing's. Service work in this group and others has taught me selflessness, spirituality, responsibility and being humble on a level I've never experienced before. I'm always looking for new people to work a table with. If you want to get involved in the CT area drop me a line. In service Jav



**LOOK FOR
YELLOW BALOONS and
PHELLOWSHIP BANNNER** at shows.

You can even catch a meeting
between sets all tour!
For more information please
contact a member listed on this page



visit our forum at <http://launch.groups.yahoo.com/group/Phellowship/>

* For general information/questions/comments about the Phellowship:
info@phellowship.net

* If you would like to make a donation to The Phellowship, or have inquiries about the treasury: treasurer@phellowship.net

* For specific questions about the history of our organization, or if you're interested in covering a story on The Phellowship, contact Paige C at paige@phellowship.net

* if you have over 1 year in recovery, and are interested in working a Phellowship table near you, contact Robert C at robert@phellowship.net

* For webpage related questions or suggestions, contact Tom R at webmaster@phellowship.net

* If you would like to contribute a story, picture, poem, etc. to the Phellowship newsletter, contact Amanda M at newsletter@phellowship.net



ORGANIZE!