Forsyth Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

Newsletter

SPECIAL SERVICE CLUB

OUR 79TH YEAR!

Founded December 30, 1930

June, 2009

June Meeting

Our next club meeting will be held as usual at the NW NC Red Cross building on 610 Coliseum Dr. The meeting starts at 7:30 PM but arrive early, say 7-ish, to hobnob with your fellow members. At press time we had two program possibilities and I don't know which it will be - but there will be a program!

May Meeting

Our May program was an exciting (yes, really!) DVD by Gary Pierce KN4AQ on Amateur radio direction finding. The DVD was MCed by N4IOZ. There was actually a wave of interest among FARC members in doing some RDF stuff. Let's try and fan those flames some.

Dayton Hamfest

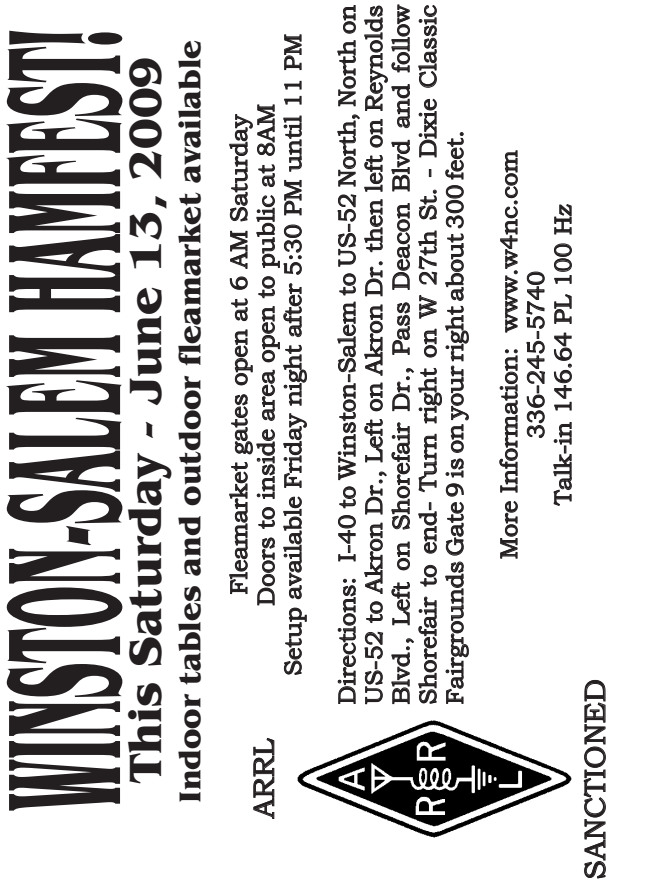
Congratulations to Don Donadio KT4KV who actually won a prize at the Dayton Hamfest. No it wasn't a nice HF rig, or even a handheld. It was a $50 ARRL gift certificate which Don spent on a newly-published book about old and rare radios. To say that WS4NC and KT4KV had a great time looking through the book and reliving old radios is an understatement.

Three Mountain Madness

Don WS4NC

I don't have a full report yet, but a big group of us had some fun at at the Three Mountain Madness bike event. There was a mild moment of panic that turned into a non-event. We thought for a short while that we had lost the last rider who started up Pilot Mountain but had not arrived in over an hour. WS4NC rode down the mountain slowly looking for the rider but never saw him. After we sent someone up the mountain again to look for him he came rolling into the rest stop at the bottom of the mountain. He sheepishly admitted to taking "some personal time" off the path.

HAMFEST - THIS WEEKEND! JUNE 13!



Yes, I know it is printed sideways - but it made you look. There has been of lots of requests for information and the outlook is that this hamfest will be one not to be missed!

Field Day

ARRL Field Day is June 27 and 28. This year we will be again be at Hobby Park on Clemmonsville Road. Exact plans will be announced over the email list server(see page 2 if you are not on it). In previous years we have met at Jimmy The Greek's restaurant on Saturday morning at 8AM for breakfast and then around 9 moved over to the Red Cross to pick up our equipment. We then head for hobby park to set up. Again we will have our usual burgers and hotdogs **picnic** Saturday evening starting at 6 PM (or earlier). Burgers, hot dogs and drinks will be

Forsyth Amateur Radio Club, Inc is a non-profit (IRS 501(c)3) North Carolina corporation for the promotion of Amateur Radio, and for the education and training of hams and the general public primarily in Forsyth County, North Carolina.

FARC was originally incorporated as the Winston-Salem Radio Club on December 31, 1930 and has been in operation ever since. We currently maintain a state-of-the-art ham station in the basement of the Red Cross, 690 Coliseum Dr., Winston-Salem, NC and also maintain two 2-meter repeaters, 146.64 (100 Hz tone) and 145.47 (100 Hz tone).

FARC has a general membership meeting with a program on the 2nd Monday of every month at the Red Cross building, 690 Coliseum Drive in Winston-Salem. The club conducts its main business meeting (sometimes called the Board Meeting) on the 3rd Monday generally at the same location. This is where most of the club's business is conducted and all attending members have a vote. All club members are strongly encouraged to attend the business meeting. For more information about FARC mail us at FARC, Inc., PO Box 11361, Winston-Salem, NC, 27116; call 336-245-5740; or visit out web site at www.w4nc.com . Club email is to info -at w4nc.org .

Officers for 2008/2009 are:

President: Phil Nunn, KD4JZZ

Vice-President: Dan O'Leary, KG4ECI

Secretary: Don Edwards, WS4NC

Treasurer: Henry Heidtmann, W2DZO

Newsletter Editor: Don Edwards, WS4NC

To join our list server send a blank email to w4nc-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

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We trade newsletters with other clubs, and many local clubs are on our mailing list. If your club has a newsletter and would like to trade please send us a copy.

provided by the club. Bring a dish if you like but not required. But do bring the family. The Club will be operating from Hobby Park all day Saturday, throughout the night and until Field Day ends at 2 PM on Sunday. Please plan on coming by at some time to spend some time on the radios - or at least to visit!

Monday Nights

The FARC main Club meeting is always on the second Monday of the month at the Red Cross. The FARC business meeting is open to all and is on the third Monday of the month and is (usually) held at Mellow Mushroom on Fourth St. The contesting group meets on the fourth Monday of the month and that is also (usually) held at the "Shroom". That leaves the first Monday of the month. Several of us have started (usually) meeting again at Mellow Mushroom on the first Monday allegedly to talk about QRP and maybe build up some interest in QRP projects. The real reason is to have victuals and talk ham radio. All are welcome at any of the Monday night meetings. If we are NOT at Mellow Mushroom then we have moved West on Fourth St. about 1 ½ blocks and we should be at Foothills Brewery. We have done that several times due to bands/parties or other crowded, noisy or just plain aggravating conditions.

Ham Radio License Testing

Amateur radio testing for new applicants as well as upgrades will be given the 2nd Monday of every month, except December, prior to the FARC regular meeting. The time is 6:30 PM and the place is the Red Cross building on Coliseum Drive in Winston-Salem. Pre-registration is required via e-mail, listing the elements you wish to take and your phone number. You may pre-register or get additional information via e-mail to info -at- w4nc.org, attention Bob Gates KJ4IC. Replace -at- with the usual symbol.

Continued on the next page

ALINCO Radios
APP Anderson Power Products
KMA ANTENNAS
Radio & Electronics, LLC dBj Jamestown, NC
CommScope Coax/Cable
OPEK
www.dbjre.com
dBj Radio & Electronics, LLC
404 Edwards Place
Jamestown, NC 27282
336-430-9087
"For all your radio, cable & accessory needs"
secure credit card transaction

Ham Testing, continued

Here is our exam schedule as it stands now for 2009: June 8, June 13 (Hamfest), July 13, August 10, September 14, October 12, November 9. None in December.

June 13, 2009 at the Winston-Salem Hamfest – time TBA. I will publish any other dates/times to you as we schedule them.

All sessions start at 6:30 PM at the Red Cross building in Winston-Salem. Pre-registration is required at info <at> w4nc.org , Att: Bob Gates KJ4IC. This is just before the FARC regular club meeting. All test participants are invited to attend the meeting.

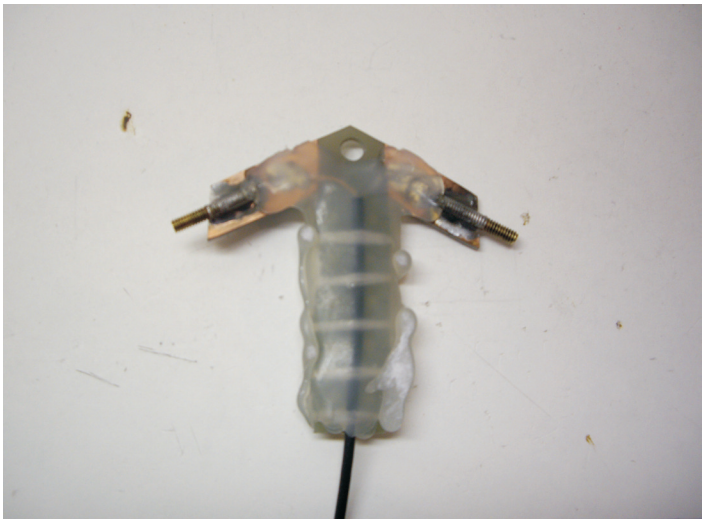
At the April testing session congratulations to our two new hams Daniel S Tally KJ4LKX and Brian K Wilson KJ4LKY and special thanks to the VE's Don WS4NC, Raja KB6MTH, Dan KG4ECI, Dale WB9SZL, Tom N4IOZ, Henry W2DZO .

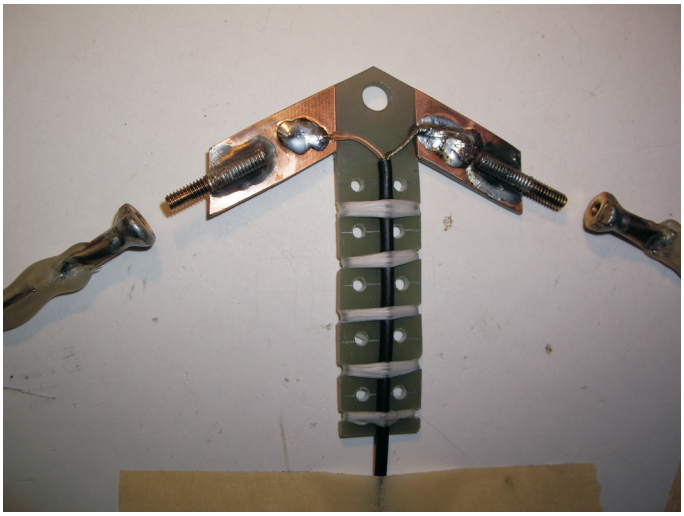
Bob Gates KJ4IC
Session Manager
Forsyth Amateur Radio Club

Home on the Range -or- A Versatile Portable Dipole Antenna

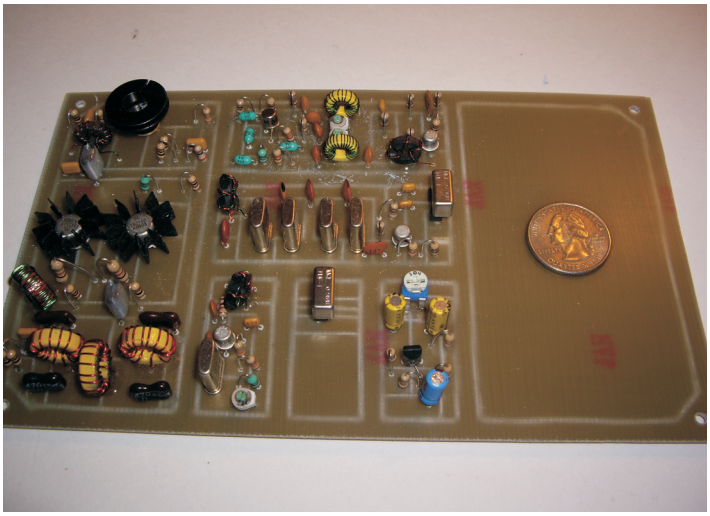
By James Kretzschmar N4HCJ

When backpacking and mountain topping it is always best to have a simple and easy antenna to erect. I finally devised an antenna system that works well. It is best described by looking at the photos. The perf board has brass threads (screws with the heads cut off) soldered to it, the coax (RG-174) is attached and secured with dental floss and "hot glue". The big hole at the top is for attaching rope to raise the antenna … the small holes are for retention of the "hot glue". The legs of the antenna end with a piece of brass tubing crimped and soldered to a brass nut. When in the field you simply screw the pieces together and raise the antenna. The beauty of this system is that you can make several antennas and interchange them for 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 meters … or other bands without having to rig another coax cable. I use this antenna together with a 3-section 18 foot (collapses down to 6 feet) pole from Home Depot. For QRP many think RG-174 is "lossy" … it works just fine, many contacts have been made with only 2.5 watts.





[Ed's note: James has been an active FARC member and continues to be - from his new home in Wyoming. He has a really impressive SSB QRP rig under construction and I hope he can make arrangements to show it off at the November's Homebrew meeting. Hopefully he won't mind my publishing this preview of the transmitter. The space on the right is reserved for the VFO. I hope he continues to contribute articles for the Newsletter, thanks James! And congrats on passing your Extra exam - with a nearly perfect score!]



Ham Calendar

Some dates are courtesy of the South East Repeater Journal.

June
1 QRP meeting at Mellow Mushroom
8 FARC Club Meeting at Red Cross
13 WinstonSalem Classic Hamfest
13 Knoxville, TN hamfest
15 FARC Board Meeting at Mellow Mushroom
22 Contestors Meeting at Mellow Mushroom
29 Fifth Monday!

July
6 QRP meeting at Mellow Mushroom
11 - Firecracker Hamfest, Salisbury, NC
13 FARC Club Meeting at Red Cross
18 Mid-summer Swapfest, Cary, NC
20 FARC Board Meeting at Mellow Mushroom
27 Contestors Meeting at Mellow Mushroom

August
3 QRP meeting at Mellow Mushroom
8 CFARS Hamfest, Fayetteville, NC
10 FARC Club Meeting at Red Cross
17 FARC Board Meeting at Mellow Mushroom
24 Contestors Meeting at Mellow Mushroom
31 Fifth Monday!

September
7 QRP meeting at Mellow Mushroom
14 FARC Club Meeting at Red Cross
19 Dallas, GA Hamfest
21 FARC Board Meeting at Mellow Mushroom
28 Contestors Meeting at Mellow Mushroom

October
5 QRP meeting at Mellow Mushroom
10 Pfafftown Hamfest
12 FARC Club Meeting at Red Cross
19 FARC Board Meeting at Mellow Mushroom
26 Contestors Meeting at Mellow Mushroom

November
2 QRP meeting at Mellow Mushroom
9 FARC Club Meeting at Red Cross
16 FARC Board Meeting at Mellow Mushroom
23 Contestors Meeting at Mellow Mushroom
30 Fifth Monday!

December
7 QRP meeting at Mellow Mushroom
14 FARC Club Dinner Meeting TBD
21 FARC Board Meeting at Mellow Mushroom
28 Contestors Meeting at Mellow Mushroom

More From the Time Machine

I haven't heard from anyone about last months article concerning the 1920's YMCA radio club in Winston-Salem. Still hoping that someone knows something.

Don WS4NC

ARES Reports

By Carl, N4PAA

Apr. 29, 2009 - Forsyth County ARES Net Report

Net Started - 8:30 PM. Net Control - N4PAA Carl.

Check ins -11. Stations were WA3RTC Steve, KJ4DLS Eric, KN4BA Terry, KG4ECI Dan, KF4EOD Mike, KF4DDB Chuck, WA4NOT Jim, WB9SZL Dale, KF4PLQ Woody, KD4EQY Jason and N4PAA Carl.

There were no announcements or traffic this evening.

Our EC - KJ4DLS Eric checked in from the Skywarn Basic Spotter training class being held at the Woodland Hall at Triad Park near Kernersville this evening. He was not able to hold the formal ARES meeting. Net control thanked those who took part in the MS Walk in Kernersville this past Saturday. He reminded the net of the next event - the Three Mountain Madness bicycle ride that starts and ends in the town of Pilot Mountain on May 30.

Formal Session - 14 minutes. Informal Session - 7. Total time - 21 minutes.

May 13, 2009 - Forsyth County ARES Net Report

Net Started - 8:30 PM. Net Control - N4PAA Carl.

Check ins -11. Stations were KF4DDB Chuck, KJ4DLS Eric, WA8IHW Jack, KE4MOY Mike, KN4BA Terry, KC4WSK Van, KI4SVH Joe, KF4EOD Mike, N0KTY John, KD4CFS Hubert and N4PAA Carl.

There were two announcements this evening by KJ4DLS Eric:

> **First - THE NET IS MOVING BACK TO THURSDAY EVENINGS STARTING IN JUNE.** Eric stated that the reasons that the net moved from Thursday to Wednesday no longer existed. It worked better with the ARES net first and the WF4DD net following on the same evening. This move takes effect with the June 4th net.
>
> Second - The Triad Skywarn Advanced Spotter training class will be held on Wednesday evening, May 20 from 7 to 9 PM at the Woodland Hall at Triad Park. Triad Park is located off the oldest 421 which goes by East Mountain Street leaving Kernersville headed east and West Market Street going west from Greensboro.

Our EC - KJ4DLS Eric held the formal ARES meeting. The main topic was the Three Mountain Madness bicycle event. Volunteers can meet at the McDonalds on Rt. 65 in Rural Hall - Exit 118 off of US 52 - at 6 AM for breakfast on Saturday, May 30. He plans to leave McDonalds to arrive at Pilot Mountain's Armfield Recreation Center by 7 AM. Volunteers not eating at McDonalds should plan on being there by 7 as well. The Center is on old 52, found by exiting new 52 at Exit 136, turning right and following that road through town to a T intersection with old 52. Turn left to get to the center. Eric discussed frequencies to be used, etc. He also asked volunteers to e-mail him their T-shirt size at kj4dls@arrl.net.

Formal Session - 28 minutes. Informal Session - 5. Total time - 33 minutes.

May 20, 2009 - Forsyth County ARES Net Report

Net Started - 8:30 PM. Net Control - KC8OEX Terry.

Check ins - 8. Stations were KD4EQY Jason, KE4MOY Mike, WB9SZL Dale, N4PAA Carl, KF4PLQ Woody, KC4WSK Van, KG4ECI Dan and KC8OEX Terry.

There was no traffic this evening. This repeater had a malfunction from Thursday thru Sunday. As an announcement, WB9SZL Dale filled the net in on the cause and the repairs that were made to get the machine back on the air - especially needed with the event coming on May 30. He also covered some planned repairs and upgrades to be made later this year. Thank you Dale for getting the repeater on the air again.

Our EC - KJ4DLS Eric was at the Skywarn Advanced Spotter Training class held at Triad Park. He was not able to check in this evening. In Eric's absence, N4PAA reminded the net of the Three Mountain Madness bicycle event to be held on May 30. He covered the meeting places, times and locations for getting the event underway. Volunteers are still needed and should contact Eric on the repeaters or at kj4dls@arrl.net if they can help out on Saturday, May 30.

Formal Session - 24 minutes. Informal Session - 12. Total time - 36 minutes.

[Editor's note by WS4NC] I am happy to see that Carl N4PAA is back to making ARES reports. A note of thanks goes to Eric KJ4DLS for keeping up with the reports while Carl has been unavailable. Carl has been occupied by caring for his wife Edie who has undergone some serious surgery in the past several months. While there has been some positive progress Edie has had some complications and at last report may have to go back for some more surgery. Our thoughts and prayers are with Carl and Edie for more positive news and a hope that a complete recovery is to be soon.

ARES Announcements

Eric KJ4DLS

THE FORSYTH COUNTY ARES NET WILL BE MOVING TO THURSDAY NIGHTS BEGINNING THURSDAY JUNE 4TH, 2009. THE NET WILL COMMENCE AT 8:30 PM ON THE 145.470 MHZ (PL 100) SAURATOWN REPEATER.

If anyone has any questions you can reach me via e-mail at kj4dls <at> arrl.net or landline at 336-231-4182. Thanks everyone for your participation in our ARES group.

Equipment Auction

Henry, W2DZO, FARC Treasurer

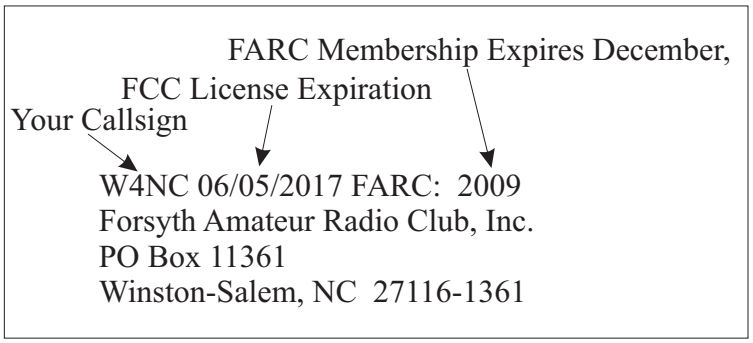
Local ham John Stewart AB2R has graciously donated the following list of items to the Forsyth Amateur Radio Club. His wish is that our club members have the first opportunity to purchase the items for their use. The following items will be sold to the highest bidder by sealed bid at the June club meeting. Bids can be mailed to the club PO box (PO BOX 11361 WS, NC 27116-1361) or hand delivered to a club officer until 7:30 on Monday June 8. Inspection of items can be made at the May Club meeting.

ITEM	MINIMUM BID
Kenwood Model TS-940 HF Transceiver	$550
Kenwood model SM-220 Station Monitor	$150
Vibroplex Telegraph Key	$50
Diawa Model CS-401 RF Switch (4-pole)	$20
MFJ Model MFJ-1702 RF Switch (2-pole)	$20
MFJ Delux SWR Wattmeter	$20
MFJ Model MFJ-941 Versa Tuner II	$20
MFJ Model MFJ-721 Super Selector CW/SSB Filter	$20
MFJ Model MFJ-202B RF Noise Bridge	$20
Kenwood Model MC-85 Microphone	$50
R. L. Drake Model TV-1000-LP Low-Pass Filter	$5
Barker and Williamson Model 425 Low-Pass Filter	$5

Email Addresses

For the first month (ever!) May had no email bounces. If your email has bounced you have been moved to USMail. Please have mercy on your Newsletter editor and change to email if possible. Many thanks to Bob KJ4IC for helping with the Newsletter, especially the US Mail version. My apologies for June's newsletter being late. See you on Mondays! *Don WS4NC*

Get the Newsletter by US Mail? Go check your label!

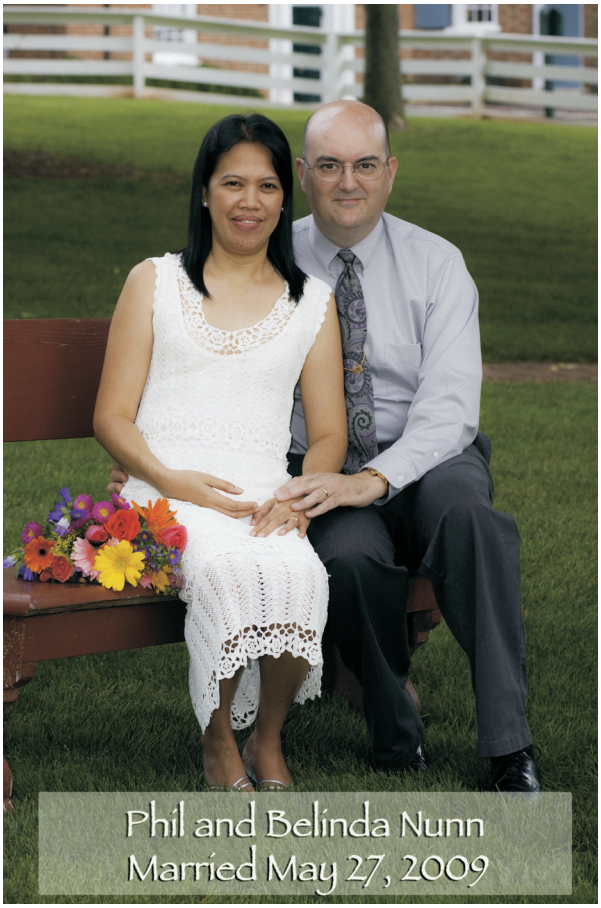


Forsyth Amateur Radio Club, Inc.
PO Box 11361
Winston-Salem, NC 27106-1361
336-245-5740

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

KD4JZZ Got Married?

by Raymond KD4JZZ

Yes that's right. Our club president, Phill Nunn - KD4JZZ, tied the knot on May 27, 2009. Phil and Belinda have known each other for about three years. Belinda is from the Philippines. Phil and Belinda had a wonderful wedding and that day went very well (minus the rain). She has really made a real positive change in Phil's life. I wish them the very best in their relationship. If you would like to view more pictures and see the video of the ceremony, visit www.taberphoto.com, and look for the Phil and Belinda gallery.

-- Raymond Taber