



## Dancers of the Month

### **Bob and Maryann Osborne are Dancers of the Month for December 2009**

You've heard of Fred and Ginger but did you know that Saddle Brooke has its very own Bob and Mary Ann Osborne, our featured "Dancers of the Month?" They started ballroom dancing in 1998 when Mary Ann asked Bob a simple question; "Would you like to take ballroom dance lessons?" With a positive response from Bob off they went to a local dance studio in Connecticut. It was the beginning of the beginning of a long love affair with dancing. After taking dance lessons they started going to the Fireside Inn in Connecticut every Wednesday evening where a buffet dinner, 1/2 hour group dance class and 3 1/2 hours of dancing were all offered for \$10.00 per person. What a bargain, \$20.00 and an enjoyable night out with your honey.

Initially Bob & Mary Ann were in awe of the ability of the people they saw dancing. Many of the dancers were older than they but fit, laughing and having a great time. They knew then that they wanted to learn more about ballroom dancing. They started taking private instruction once a week for one year plus taking as many group dance lessons as they could while social dancing three times a week. They now felt they were ready to move up to a higher level of dancing with more private dance lessons with more advanced steps.

Bob and Mary Ann moved to Saddle Brooke in 2000 and once again were looking for more dance lessons which they found at Shall We Dance under the instruction of Joanna Senn, Tucson's premier dance instructor. Bob says, "the best feeling is when you are trying to master a difficult step and sooner or later you actually perfect it." Mary Ann and Bob sometimes call dance steps by how much it cost in dance lessons to learn. Some steps were \$300.00 steps, others were \$500.00 steps.

Through dancing they have gained friendships in Connecticut and Saddle Brooke. Over the summer they attend numerous dance camps to further their dancing abilities and to keep up with the latest trends in ballroom dancing. They are glad to see how ballroom dancing has grown in popularity in Saddle Brooke.

Bob and Mary Ann dance thirteen ballroom dances: Foxtrot, Waltz, Tango, East Coast & West Coast Swing, Hustle, Cha-Cha, Salsa/Mambo, Bolero, Samba, Merengue, Viennese Waltz and Quick Step. Who knew there were so many ballroom dances? Dancing a variety of ballroom dances involving many

different steps in each dance keeps it interesting and mentally stimulating and there are always more steps to learn. Bob appreciates Mary Ann's desire to work hard to learn new and difficult dance steps. Mary Ann says Bob is a great dancer and leads well and she loves to be twirled around the dance floor.

Bob and Mary Ann started teaching ballroom dance classes three years ago here in Saddle Brooke and have taught over 300 students to glide around the dance floor. They are a wonderful addition to our dancing community. If that's not enough, they go dancing in Tucson weekly and attend open dancing here in Saddle Brooke twice a week. Never too much dancing for the Osborne's.

Music has been a big part of Bob's growing up. He played in many dance bands in his younger years and now enjoys being on the other side of the bandstand. Social dancing has brought a new dimension to their lives. They can't imagine not dancing and hope that they can continue for a long time to come. So do all of us who are privileged to know them and dance with them.

Dancing isn't the only thing, it's everything, right Mary Ann and Bob?