



DANCERS OF THE MONTH

Jeff and Catherine Eighmy are Dancers of the Month for October 2009

One of the most exciting things about the Ballroom Club's **Dancer of the Month** feature is learning the individual stories that make Ballroom dancers such interesting people. When we asked **Jeff and Catherine Eighmy**, the October Dancers of the Month, to talk about their dance experience, they told us this story:

We've danced together since high school - rocking back and forth while hanging onto each other. At a conservative denominational college in Oklahoma, we tried to dance in the vestibule of an auditorium where the Beach Boys were holding a concert - but we got caught and nearly expelled from school. After that, for thirty years we tried to dance at the occasional wedding, etc., but we weren't very successful except for the year or two we concentrated on square dancing. We enjoyed dancing, but we really did not know what we were doing or that we could become better with a little instruction. Dancing was more about sweating than having fun. During those years, we concentrated mostly on raising our family and our teaching careers. When we retired to SaddleBrooke and attended the holiday dinner dances at MV, we marveled at how well the couples here could dance - very elegantly and smoothly. We decided to try improving a little by taking lessons.

We started taking lessons in the fall of 2007 - line dancing (Catherine), square dancing and ballroom dancing. While line dancing and square dancing with the SaddleBrooke Squares went smoothly, the first ballroom dancing lessons were a complete failure. Thankfully the classes ended just prior to filing for divorce. Our first instructor was part of the problem, but another part was our failure to appreciate the importance of the male leading and the female following - two very different skills not required in square dancing or line dancing. Our marriage counselor suggested that we try again; so, in the fall of 2008, we took both country western dancing from Stan and Jane Gromelski and ballroom dancing from Bob and Maryann Osborne. With great instructors and a new appreciation for the differing male and female roles, we began to improve rapidly and have begun to dance like the other SaddleBrooke couples we admire.

We are happy to report that our marriage is stronger than ever. Not only have we enjoyed an activity that we can do together, we feel that we are better dancers. Jeff is a more courteous and self-confident lead, and Catherine has mastered the difficult task of reading his leads, which can be a little ambiguous and unexpected at times. We plan to continue with another round of ballroom lessons and, then, taking some more country and western. Because of Bob, Maryann, and the SaddleBrooke Dance Ballroom Dance Club we can now look forward to this winter's round of holiday dinner dances with much less trepidation. Hope to see you there. Look for us; we're smiling more and sweating less. And Catherine has five pairs of new shoes!!!