

November 2009

FLYING SAUCER REUNION



By Paula Wiley Haiko -A Proud Flying Saucer

Approximately 60 alumni from that special group of gifted square and round dancers founded by Frank and Iris Gilbert, known as the "Flying Saucers" met in the historic Yellow Rock Barn on Saturday, September 19, 2009, for their 4th reunion. The evening began with lots of hugs and kisses as old friends arrived and greeted each other warmly; followed by a wonderful buffet.

Gary Schick, who began calling for the group in 1964, traveled from Texas to give everyone a good workout on the dance floor and, after an admitted eleven year absence from calling, it was obvious he had not lost his skills. There was plenty of laughter, whoops and hollers, and a few cries for help, as long-forgotten muscles were put to use.

Former Saucers, Rod and Susan Anderson, brought out the oldies and cued the round dancing, including the all-time favorites, "Calypso" and "Salty Dog Rag", which were originally rehearsed on that same wooden floor at Yellow Rock so many years ago.

At 10:00 p.m., after a night of dining, dancing, and sharing precious memories, it was time to say goodbye, but nobody wanted it to end. There were long hugs, kisses, last minute pictures, promises to stay in touch, and tear-filled eyes.

It was heart-warming to witness the close personal bond this group has formed over the years, and to hear the fond memories and love they express for their beloved teachers, Frank and Iris Gilbert. There is no doubt Frank and Iris would be very pleased and proud of what they created, and how it has endured over the decades. They could never have imagined the lasting impact they would have on so many young lives. The Flying Saucers are their legacy, and it is a great one!

The next reunion will be held on May 7, 2011, at Yellow Rock Barn.

11/25/09