



El Camino Reelers Board Meeting Minutes (Approved)

Saturday, October 24, 2020, 11:00 AM – 11:48 AM

Remote meeting via Zoom 465 455 8223

In Attendance: Eric, Allan, Ed, Oliver, David, Kurt, Robin

Minutes From Last Meeting

- Revised minutes from the 9/26/2020 board meeting were approved by acclamation.

Financial Report (Ed)

- On 9/29/2020, Ed sent out an email confirming to our members that we have extended membership for 2020 for an indefinite period until we are certain we can resume dancing. At that point, we'll examine the options for membership dues. (One member paid their dues anyway.)

Insurance

- Ed has sent a check to Nancy Shelton so we're registered for the 48'n'8 options, so we will continue to be covered by insurance for dancing starting January 1st. (We're already covered through the end of 2020.)
- Before we start dancing again in 2021, we must send in a full roster with a matching payment.

COVID-19 Pandemic Response/Club Hiatus

- Santa Clara County has moved to a level where we could possibly dance, at least outside. However, there are no approved COVID-19 vaccines yet, and the national infection rate has been rising in recent weeks. St. Andrews Church and the Billy DeFrank Center have still not reopened.
- Once the board feels comfortable recommending that the club resume dancing, we will send out a survey/poll to ECR members to ask what they would be comfortable doing and when.
- At this time (October, 2020), the board does not anticipate resuming in-person dancing until sometime in 2021.

Halloween Virtual Dance: 10/31/2020, "Reeling In Terror!"

- Halloween Dance, conducted as a virtual dance called by Kurt Gollhardt.
 - Schedule: 7:30 PM to 9:30 PM
 - Virtual Dancing: Plus/Advanced/Plus (45 minutes)
 - Social session 1:
 - Last call for pumpkin contest!
 - Show Us Your Pumpkin! (Pumpkin carving contest, Zoom poll to determine winner.)
 - Social session 2:
 - Last call for costume contest!
 - Costume Contest! (Zoom poll to determine winner.)
 - Virtual Dancing: Plus (15 minutes)
 - Eric will log in at 7:00 PM, Kurt and the board members will log in at 7:15 PM.
 - Publicity
 - ECR website has the Zoom registration link.
 - The dance has been publicized on Facebook (in both the ECR and IAGSDC groups).
 - SCVSDA Dance Calendar
 - ECR Calendar entry, which flows into the LGBTQ Bay Area Dance Calendar
 - IAGSDC Dance Calendar
 - Eric has utilized Zoom meeting registration for the event.
 - Current registration number: 23 through Zoom, but 25 people total (two couples registered as one)
 - Waiting and breakout rooms
 - We will have 4 breakout rooms, each room staffed by a board member.

- Board members will all be co-hosts to watch the waiting and breakout rooms.
- Contest Prizes
 - Amazon gift card for \$15 (first place) and \$10 (second place) for each contest.
 - Eric and Oliver donated the funds for the gift cards.
- Tip Jar for Caller
 - Kurt's tip jar: <https://paypal.me/kurt3sf>

Club Nights

- Kurt has scheduled Three of a Kind for our pre-Xmas Wednesday club night.
- We will hold an ECR Online Gaming Session on Saturday, 11/14/2020, from 2:30 PM to 4:30 PM. *Eric will send out an announcement to ecrtalk.*
- The Prime8's held a socially-distanced picnic outside at a local park. Do we want to try something similar? This would involve six-foot social distancing and masking when not eating or drinking. *Eric will send out a survey to ecrtalk to see if there would be interest in a socially-distanced Saturday lunch.*
- For now, we will leave ECR social hour running every other week, starting at 7:00 PM, with 30 minutes of virtual dancing, followed by a "social hour" at 7:30 PM. Oaktown 8's is doing virtual dancing for half of their club nights, which are every other week.
- Once we have a date for club night resumption, Kurt can begin tentative scheduling of callers, with the understanding that these dates are subject to cancelling if the dancing hiatus is extended.
- We previously decided that whenever we resume dancing, the monthly Fun Nights held at St. Andrews (twice a quarter) will move to Tuesday nights. We are retaining the quarterly Friday Fun Nights at the Billy De Frank Center in San Jose. As of 8/30/2020, there is not yet a reopening date for the Center.
- When we resume dancing, we will create cards or printed pages showing what level of dance will be called next. Ed is looking into creating something delightful for this purpose.

Potluck Nights for 2020 (David to schedule)

- January 31st, 2020 - Called by *Three of a Kind* (James Thompson, Regina Schulz, Mike Pogue), theme: "Load the Love Boat".
- April 17th, 2020 – Kurt Gollhardt - **Cancelled due to Covid-19**
- September 25th, 2020 [SAUMC confirmed] – **Cancelled due to Covid-19**
- November 27th, 2020 [SAUMC confirmed] – **Cancelled due to Covid-19**

Quarterly Dances for 2020:

- February 22, 2020: Eric Henerlau [Confirmed 10/17/19]
 - This dance was more successful than anticipated, with 114 dancers in attendance.
- May 2, 2020: Barry Clasper [Confirmed 8/11/19] – **Cancelled due to COVID-19.**
- August 1, 2020: Mike Kellogg. — **Cancelled due to COVID-19.**
- **October 31, 2020:** Halloween (Virtual) Dance (discussed above)

Community Events

- All public celebrations and community events have been cancelled until further notice due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Next Board Meeting:

- Saturday, November 21st, 2020 at 11:00 AM.

[End]

Appendix: Topics for Future Board meetings.

The items on these pages have been placed on hold temporarily pending clearer direction on the COVID-19 emergency.

ECR Membership History Project

- We are ready to order anniversary bars whenever we resume dancing.
- Eric has sent a list of badges to Ed. There are between 50 and 60 badges for this initial order.
- Hanging bars cost \$3.50 each, and we're looking an initial order of 60 bars, so the cost will be \$210 plus shipping.
- Eric has proposed that we use the IAGSDC club retention program to propose they pay for the initial set of bars.
- We will hand out the hanging bars at the August dance, which is now our (belated) Anniversary dance.
- Craig expressed interest in a simple pin representing 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30 years of ECR membership, and said he would look into it, and present some design options to the Board, and perhaps consider a donation towards that project. Eric suggested this might be something that could be folded into our annual merchandise push with the cost being solely the club member's responsibility. Orders would be verified with the board.

Fun Nights

- Andy Shore has politely withdrawn from calling our May Fun Night. Allan is in agreement with Andy, as even if the COVID-19 shelter-in-place is lifted on May 3rd (unlikely as of the date of this agenda), May 20th would still be too soon for folks to feel comfortable dancing. We will cancel the May Fun Night, and rescheduling Andy for a future date, which will still be half contra, half squares, with the intention of "converting" contra dancers into square dancers.
- Once we're dancing again, starting with the next event, Fun nights will be held on Tuesdays from 7:15 PM to 9:00 PM, with full level Plus dancing from 9:00 PM to 9:30 PM. We will advertise the night as starting at 7:00 PM to get people there on time to start dancing by 7:15 PM.
- Fun Night format clarification: Incorporating member suggestions, we will start the evening with a light and easy non-square mixer, and then mostly call squares with some light non-squares (but not couples dances such as swing or waltz). Squares should have as much variety as possible, to keep it interesting. This could include calls from higher levels or made-up calls or "heritage"/historical calls (such as Grand Colonel Spin or Rip & Snort). We want to minimize break length to keep people dancing as much as possible.
- **2020 Fun Night Schedule**
 - Friday 02/14/2020: BDFC / Michael Levy / Had a modest but enthusiastic attendance.
 - Wednesday 03/18/2020: SAUMC / *Cancelled due to COVID-19 emergency.*
 - Wednesday 04/22/2020: SAUMC / *Cancelled due to COVID-19 emergency.*
 - Wednesday 05/20/2020: SAUMC / *Andy Shore cancelled due to COVID-19 emergency.*
 - Friday 06/19/2020: BDFC / Kurt Gollhardt / *Cancelled due to COVID-19 emergency.*
 - 07/xx/2020: Location TBD / Caller TBD / *Cancelled due to COVID-19 emergency.*
 - Friday 08/21/2020: BDFC / Caller TBD (Jim Maxwell's Birthday) / *Cancelled due to COVID-19 emergency.*
 - 09/xx/2020: Location TBD / Caller TBD / *Cancelled due to COVID-19 emergency.*
 - 10/xx/2020: Location TBD / Caller TBD / *Not yet scheduled due to COVID-19 emergency.*
 - Friday 11/20/2020: BDFC / Caller TBD / *Not yet scheduled due to COVID-19 emergency.*
 - 12/xx/2020: Location TBD / Caller TBD / *Not yet scheduled due to COVID-19 emergency.*

Beginner Classes

- Violet Class: SSD-50 Level 1 Blast
 - *Due to the COVID-19 emergency, we are not yet prepared to set a date for the next class. Eric has sent out an email informing potential students that we are delaying the class for the moment.*
 - Eric has 3 or 4 people interested in a class.
 - Format will be 3 Saturdays, 2 weeks apart, with Wednesday night practice.
 - Eric will ask the students about Saturday vs Sunday.

Alternate Dance Venues

- Robin has determined that the Murphy Park Community Center in Sunnyvale charges 60% of the door, with no janitorial charges. Robin will find out if they're available on Tuesdays.
- The Los Altos School District charges a flat hourly rate, no janitorial fee. Robin is investigating. Bows & Beaus uses Loyola School. There are 12 schools in the district.
- Eric has determined that Foothills Congregational Church in Los Altos will not work as a dance space for other than occasional weekend workshops.
- Oliver has found the Palo Alto Community Child Center, which is \$50/hour. However, this venue is only available until 8:00 PM. This would be great for workshops.
- Sue Kayton has suggested a couple of Menlo Park venues for club nights (e.g., Menlo-Atherton High School) and one in Redwood City/Woodside. (Allan will talk with Sue Kayton.) The Menlo-Atherton venue would not work for dances. Food must be placed on tables outside the room, and the room is very small, holding no more than max. 4 squares.
- Lucie Stern Center in Palo Alto. (Oliver will contact.)
- Dave Decot suggested that the City of Santa Clara is opening a new sports park including a multipurpose recreational facility. Dave will check on the new sports park and also regarding the arts center at Wilcox High School.
- Ladera Community Church off of Alpine Road (where Stanford Quads is currently meeting). (Allan noted that this location would be difficult to get to during weeknight commute hours.)
- First United Methodist Church of Palo Alto (where Palo Alto Contra currently dances). Allan will contact Mike Buchanan and/or other contra dancers to discuss renting space at the church for club nights.
- David Morandi will contact the PAJCC to ask about how much to rent the gym or one of the meeting rooms.
- David Morandi has contacted Andy Shore to ask who books the Palo Alto contra space at First Methodist Church in Palo Alto.
- Allan will check out the Murphy Park Community Center in Sunnyvale (where Lucky Steppers dances). There is a nonprofit rate and a resident rate.
 - Since the last board meeting, Alan Stevenson was kind enough to forward Allan information on the Mountain View Community Center, which, on paper (well, on website) looks like they have several rooms that would work well for us, as long as we qualify as a non-profit/community group under their guidelines, with hourly rates ranging from \$5 to \$50, depending upon the room:
<https://www.mountainview.gov/depts/cs/rec/facilities/communitycenter/roomsandfees.asp>
- Craig Mahaffey suggested creating an exploratory committee to work with other square dance clubs to attempt to locate a venue (such as warehouses) that might be purchased and turned into a dedicated square dance center, such as Redwood Rainbows or the Wilde Bunch have.
 - Michael Levy, Joe Dehn, and Sue Kayton would be good people to approach for the committee.
- Craig also suggested two clubs sharing a space and a caller to reduce club costs. Sue Kayton mentioned this concept to Kurt. Clubs might have offset dance times during the same evening.

Quarterly Workshops

- We want to hold more quarterly workshops. We'd pay \$200 or half the door. Topics we'd like to cover:
 - Gender Swap/APD workshop, for 4 hours.
 - Allan was to check with Rob to see how long he thinks a workshop should take, and if he's available for a date yet to be determined. If Rob's not available, Allan will ask the same question of Eric Henerlau.
 - We will push out the date for this workshop at this point.
 - Convention Brush-Up for Plus (thars, teacup chain, other rarely-used calls) This might also be handled via the 6 weeks of club nights prior to Convention, as long as we announce the topic of each club night in advance.
 - APD/DBD Plus. (Again.)
 - Square recovery techniques. (Keep the square dancing, and also know how to reset from lines or waves. Ideally, swap people around to get them into the right place before the end of the sequence.)

[end]