



El Camino Reelers Board Meeting Minutes (Approved)

Saturday, July 25, 2020 11:00 AM -12:30 PM

Remote meeting via Zoom 465 455 8223

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

Minutes From Last Meeting

- Minutes from the 6/27/2020 board meeting were approved by acclamation.

Financial Report (Ed)

- No updates at this time.
- At the last meeting, we agreed to push out our dues expiration for each month that we're not dancing, and "restart" memberships whenever we start club dancing again.
- Eric brought up the question of the people who had paid to dance in advance (subscriptions). David believes we do not have any outstanding subscription balances at this point. Eric will pop into the church and retrieve the subscription list(s).

Insurance

- On 7/19/2020, Robin alerted the board that she had received an email suggesting that the United Square Dancers of America ("USDA") has suspended liability insurance until the CDC publishes guidelines allowing groups to mix again.
- On 7/20/2020, Ed confirmed that ECR is insured through the Peninsula Square Dance Federation, which he believes buys their insurance from USDA. Here's the last Ed heard from Nancy Shelton:
Your insurance is still good through New Years. I have heard there might be some sort of refund but nothing for sure. We usually hear the rates in mid September so there are a couple of months yet to wait.
- Note: Since these minutes were taken, an update was sent out by Ed Wilson on 8/12/2020, including a note from Nancy Shelton regarding renewing our insurance coverage. That information will be included in the August board meeting agenda.

COVID-19 Pandemic Response/Club Hiatus

- Santa Clara County's current shelter-in-place order was updated on 7/13/2020 as follows: *"At 12:00 p.m. on July 13th, Governor Newsom announced that a number of indoor activities and industries will be closed statewide, and additional indoor activities and industries will be closed in counties that appear on the State's "monitoring list" for three days or longer. According to the State's website (covid19.ca.gov):*
Effective immediately, California closes some indoor business operations statewide and additional indoor operations in counties on Monitoring List for 3 consecutive days. Statewide indoor closures include restaurants, bars and breweries, wineries & tasting rooms, movie theaters, family entertainment centers, zoos and museums, and cardrooms. County indoor closures include fitness centers, places of worship and cultural ceremonies like weddings and funerals, indoor protests, offices for non-critical infrastructure sectors, personal care services, hair salons and barbershops, and malls. County closures apply to counties that have been on the County Monitoring List for 3 consecutive days.."
- The consensus among the board is that we will wait to reopen until Stage 4 has been announced for Santa Clara County.
- We will discuss more specific potential reopening dates once Stage 3 has begun. We will send out a survey/poll to ECR members to ask what they would be comfortable doing and when.
- The August 1st Mike Kellogg in-person dance has been cancelled.
 - Mike Kellogg is not available to call our October dance, and he is not interested in calling a virtual dance.
- The Billy DeFrank Center has not yet reopened.

Club Nights

- Update on the virtual joint ECR/Oaktown 8's club night?
 - There has been some feedback from one club member who felt that there was not enough social time for ECR members to speak with each other. Oaktown's virtual club nights are 7:30 PM-8:30 PM on Wednesday. We've been averaging about 20 people (and 2 pets) on-camera at ECR social nights.
 - Eric will send out a survey asking ECR members if they want to see virtual dancing in future ECR social hours.
 - We will also encourage a free-form discussion of the Halloween event at the next ECR virtual meeting.
 - For now, we will leave ECR social hour running every other week.
- Once Santa Clara County announces Stage 4 dates, we can consider if we want to try outdoor dancing.
- 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 6/25/2020, 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** - Rich Reel had been confirmed. David will contact Rich to let him know of the event cancellation.
- **November 27th, 2020** [SAUMC confirmed] – (Caller TBD) ("Black Friday" theme...David was to ask Three of a Kind.)

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.**
 - St. Andrews confirmed.
 - Contract sent 8/10/19.
 - Contract accepted in writing by Mike on 9/10/19.
 - Allan sent a cancellation to Mike on 6/26/2020. Mike confirmed the cancellation. He is not available to call a Halloween dance, nor a virtual dance.
- **October 31, 2020:** Halloween Dance, conducted as a virtual dance called by Kurt Gollhardt.
 - Robin moved that we hold a virtual dance. Oliver seconded the motion.
 - This will be a two part event: costume contest and trivia contest, and a 45 to 60 minute virtual dance session, order to be determined. A tip jar will be provided for the caller.
 - Kurt has confirmed that he is available and ready to call this event.
 - We will ask about this at a future ECR social hour to gather preferences to work out the final details, and can also send out a survey.
 - Allan will resume searching for a caller in early September if it appears that the county will reopen by then.

Community Events

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

Next Board Meeting:

- Sunday, August 30th, 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.
- 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 has 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
 - 10/xx/2020: Location TBD / Caller TBD
 - Friday 11/20/2020: BDFC / Caller TBD
 - 12/xx/2020: Location TBD / Caller TBD

2019 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

- *Note: This topic was not discussed, but is being left here as a placeholder for the next board meeting.*
- 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]