



El Camino Reelers Board Meeting Minutes

Saturday, October 16, 2022, 11:00 AM PDT

Remote meeting via Zoom 465 455 8223

Attending: Annette, David, Ed, Michael G, Robin, Kurt, Michael L, Oliver.

Minutes from Last Meeting

- Minutes from the 09/11/2022 meeting minutes were approved.

Activities since last meeting

- Sunday picnic 9/18 canceled due to inclement weather
- Graduated seven students from most recent blast class

Club Nights

- As of 9/20 Club nights have the following format: 7:00-8:30 SSD, 8:30-9:30 Plus and Advanced
- Looking for Saturday dance venues for potentially a second club night
- Ed will look at St. Andrew's schedule to see if 2nd and 4th Sat mornings 10-12 are available. Cost would be \$100 for church.
- Oliver will check Ventura Community Center for Saturday availability and cost
- Michael will check Mountain View Community Center (hardwood floors in L Room: \$56-Maple Room \$? – padded vinyl floors \$113/hr: no tables and chairs allowed in those rooms) \$250 deposit required Prices are for non-profit. We are 501(c)7
- Annette Trinity Church Menlo Park (\$30) They have 2 large rooms (for 106 or 300 people “standing”). Larger hall has a sound system. \$20 or \$35/hour. \$150 security and \$15 key deposit. \$50 cleaning fee for 3 hours (i.e. \$150)
- Kurt has scheduled club night callers through middle of October. Dave will be this Tuesday. **More callers to be scheduled shortly**
- The hope is that with successful recruiting we will have enough attendance to have two club nights again, one (mostly) SSD, one Plus and Advanced.
- **We will be dark December 27th and encourage people to attend the Interclub Holiday party on the 26th**

Covid Policies

- We will continue to mask until at least end of October and going forward.
- **As of November 1st, we will change to recommending masks instead of requiring them.**
- **We're keeping our requirements of requiring fully vaccinated**
- **Kurt will send out the risk-level assessment he has, and we will make our masking requirements dependent on Santa Clara County risk level. Thresholds to be hashed out next meeting**
- Health officials are still recommending wearing masks

Quarterly Dances

- Eric Henerlau confirmed to call the Halloween Dance
- Ken Ritucci will call on March 25, 2023 **7-10**
- Masking decision for that dance will have to be done at the January board meeting
- **Need to encourage SSD members to attend other club's SSD events, like July 30th Oaktown 8s picnic. Maybe arrange carpools etc. Make it a club outing**
- **Ed will be reaching out to callers for a late-May dance after he gets back from vacation**
- **Need to plan Halloween Dance. Carol and Susan might do decorations and possibly one of the 50/50 teams. Oliver and Annette will help as well**
- **There was a miscommunication about scheduling the church. We will have the person who books the caller also book the church. Annette will check with Stan if they could put a publicly accessible calendar out again.**

Classes / Open House

- Red Blast Class instructions have concluded. Graduation was held 9/10
- We'll ask Kurt if there are any SSD students from Oakland that are ready for a Plus class
- There's a Quads Plus class we can recommend should there be someone who want to proceed
- **At Open Houses, we need to have a rotation to greet new people at the door to make them feel welcome, even late comers**
- Things that worked in terms of recruiting, and those that didn't:
 - Nextdoor and Palo Alto weekly, and word of mouth worked
 - One group showed up after seeing the flyers on California Avenue
 - Though there was response on Meetup, no-one showed up
 - Los Altos had success with Palo Alto Daily Post. They offered an ad package for \$850
 - Oliver reached out to Avenidas, who expressed interest at San Mateo Pride In The Park in including the info in their newsletter, but has never heard back
 - Flyers were posted on California Ave and around Stanford
 - Reached out to Stanford Queer Student Resources who promised to spread the word
 - However, Stanford is in low-attendance summer sessions right now
- What did we not do (enough) of, if any? **Paid ad in papers... Distribute flyer in the area at University Ave, Castro St (Mtn Vw)**
- Up-to-date vaccination (incl. booster) required, masks still required
- Class fee includes all review and club nights until **(9/27 or 10/4)**
- Red Class members will get next year's membership free. In future, if less than 3 months left in membership year (i.e. graduation is after June 30), they get the following year free, otherwise the rest of the current year
- It was decided that class members will get badges at graduation.
- We reached out to Open House attendees per email at least once
- **We will have another SSD class likely late January/Feb if we can sort out the location**
- **Michael and Kurt will think about restructuring the blast class to run over 4 Saturdays x 3 hours**
- **We could have one Open House earlier (Dec 6) to gather contact information of interested parties. Will start advertising once Ed has come up with a flyer**

Community Events

- No upcoming events

Membership

- Membership has unanimously approved the changes to our Bylaws to replace Mainstream with SSD as membership requirement
- Bylaws were updated and posted
- **When will we hand anniversary bars out?**

Board / General Meeting

Financials

- Looking at past pre-Covid dances, 50/50 was a major contributor to the bottom line, bringing in anywhere from \$65 to \$155. Even with that, we lost money at some dances. Net results were anywhere from **-\$321** to \$556. **We need volunteers to do 50/50 at our dances**
- 38 people have paid their dues, 37 outstanding (some possibly in the mailbox)
- Tuesday Club Nights: Still losing money weekly, but not unsustainably.
- Once all members have paid up, Ed will end insurance money

Other dancing

Saturday afternoon dances

- Should do more weekend afternoon events.
- **Should they become regular, and if so, how frequent? And where? See Club Nights above**
- **They could morph into Workshops?**

Venue

- Billy de Frank has started to have some in-person events again. Annette tried to **to reach out to BdF, but they still have very limited hours.**

Picnic

- SSD picnic Sunday Sept 18th was cancelled. **Reschedule?**

Fun Nights

- Currently on hold. Doing a couple of Open Houses pre- class begin.
- We previously decided that whenever we resume dancing, the monthly Fun Nights held at St. Andrews (twice a quarter) will move to Tuesday nights 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.
- We are planning on retaining the quarterly Friday Fun Nights at the Billy De Frank Center in San Jose once we feel comfortable doing so. We'll be reaching out to them about starting those up.

Potluck Nights

- Once we feel comfortable to have shareable food, we will discuss scheduling potluck nights.
- We're not comfortable, yet, and will assess in the New Year.
- In the meantime, we'll have picnics

Quarterly Workshops

- **Need to find a space for them now that St. Andrew's is unavailable weekend afternoons**
- 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.
- 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? In the last half-hour of Adv-Class-Plus format?
- 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.)

Social Activities

- None planned at this time
- **Robin will look at taking up going to the Mountain View theater again**

Online Presence

Meetup

- Meetup currently costs \$24.99/mo. We will keep MeetUp and have changed to the 6-moth model. Just paid another \$100. **Is this something we want to keep up? How active are we on Meetup?**
- **Robin to try and generate more interest on Meetup. We'll reevaluate in 4 months**

Zoom

- Zoom has been renewed for another year in June.
- Board meetings are zoomed.

Facebook

- We will ask Dave Decot to **delete the group. Michael to look into that**

Other

- Eric posts on Instagram, posts are sent to Twitter.
- In Google Groups it seems not to be possible to assign a member's name to an email address

Website

Next Board Meeting:

- Sunday, November 20 , 2022, at 11 am PDT. Location: Zoom