



## El Camino Reelers Board Meeting Minutes

Sunday, March 21, 2021, 11:00 AM

Remote meeting via Zoom 465 455 8223

Attending: Eric, Ed, David, Robin, Michael, Kurt, Oliver

### Minutes from Last Meeting

- Minutes from the 2/27/2021 board meeting were approved after one more change.

### Elections:

- Allan had changed the password back immediately following the last board meeting.

### Financial Report (Ed)

- Meetup expense and Election Buddy paid

### Mailing List

- Last month, Allan modified the mailing list's SPF (Sender Protection Framework) to improve email delivery reliability for ecrboard and ectalk. Eric will follow up with some of the users who experienced problems

### Reporter from KQED

- Kurt, Allen, Ed, and Stewart had an hour-long meeting with Britta Shoot on March 4. The meeting went very well. Britta liked our enthusiasm, and will contact us again once the story will be published. Likely to be a written story on their web site.

On 2/23/2021, we were contacted by a reporter from KQED:

*Britta Shoot <workywork@brittashoot.com>  
Tue, Feb 23, 2:32 PM (3 days ago) to  
[info@reelers.org](mailto:info@reelers.org)*

*Hello El Camino Reelers,*

*I'm a writer for the KQED arts and culture website, working on a story about the past and present of LGBTQ square dancing clubs in the Bay Area. I'd love to talk with your current leaders and perhaps longtime members and callers, depending on who you think could best speak to the club's history.*

*Happy to answer questions you have for me and look forward to connecting with some of you.*

*Thanks, and cheers,  
Britta Shoot*

*--*

*Britta Shoot  
Journalist • Writer • Editor  
<https://twitter.com/brittashoot> <https://brittashoot.com/>*

### Board Duties/Turnover

- Even though Allan is stepping away from the board, he will remain available to assist with any mailing list or social media issues in the future.
- Eric will take over the ECR Club Night hosting again. The Waiting Room feature was eliminated
- Eric needs to get meetup password from Allan
- Ed, Eric, and Michael all have the Zoom password and can therefore host meetings
- Allan will continue to be ECR's caller liaison for booking callers for dances (once dancing resumes).
- Michael Golden will assist Eric with social media duties (Twitter, Instagram, Facebook, Meetup).

- Allan added Michael Golden as a Sympa owner and moderator for both mailing lists following the board meeting.
- Someone else should put a credit card into the MeetUp account to keep it active moving forward. Eric to talk to Allan about this. Allan sent Ed all outstanding reimbursement receipts for current MeetUp charges following the last board meeting
- Allan sent out the following templates/checklists to ecrboard following the board meeting:
  - ECR quarterly dance contract template
  - ECR Social Media Cycle for Fun Nights (and quarterly dances) ▪ Fun Night caller contract template.
  - Ed will check that they are on Google Drive

#### COVID-19 Pandemic Response/Club Hiatus

- Ed has sent out an e-mail relaying our insurance's opinion that there will not be any square dancing possible for at least the next 6 months, but that might change as rules for fully vaccinated people might become less restrictive.
- Now that the weather turned, we will try to set up another socially-distanced picnic on May 22 2:00 pm. Eric will take the lead on this with Ryan.
- Santa Clara County is now in the red tier and anticipating to go into orange soon.
- As of 2/26/2021, three COVID-19 vaccines have been approved by the FDA for immediate/emergency distribution. However, California's vaccine distribution program is moving slowly. March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021 saw the introduction of the next phase of allowable vaccinations to everyone over the age of 16 with pre-existing health conditions. However, it may still be several months before doses can be made available to most club members.
- St. Andrews Church and the Billy DeFrank Center have still not reopened. Allan emailed Stan Johnsen ([stan.johnsen@sbcglobal.net](mailto:stan.johnsen@sbcglobal.net)), who has been our liaison with St. Andrews in the past, to ask him for an updated status. Stan responded later that day, saying:
 

*Thanks for checking in At this time talk of St. Andrew's merging or fading away have abated. It was our misfortune that our Pastor Saia passed away last September. A new pastor, Saulisi Kanongataa has been appointed. He is young and energetic.*

*At this time our congregation looks stable, at least as stable as the pandemic permits. We gather for worship and other meetings on-line. That's probably of limited value for square dancing???*

*We'll let you know when we can re-open. Your guess is as good as ours as to when health officials permit this. We have valued your use of our facilities and look forward with providing you a venue in the future - hopefully not too distant a future.*
- 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, the board anticipates that we won't resume in-person dancing until later in 2021.

#### Insurance

- Reminder: Once we're ready to dance again in 2021, we must send Nancy Shelton a full roster with a matching payment.

#### SCVSDA Club Info Page

- The SCVSDA page still lists us as having Tuesday and Wednesday nights. We will send them updated information once we're ready to resume dancing.

#### Club Nights/Activities

- Eric and Allan have conducted four gaming sessions, which went well. We will schedule the next gaming night for April 17 2:00-4:00 PM.

- Kurt will continue to schedule Zoom callers quarterly.
- Currently, ECR social hour is 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. To increase attendance, maybe we can have a suggested topic of discussion in the invite?
- 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 planning on retaining the quarterly Friday Fun Nights at the Billy De Frank Center in San Jose. As of 2/26/2021, 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.

#### Online Membership & ECR Website

- Ed has given all Board members access to Google Drive.
- Ed has created a form to allow for new members to join on the website.
- Now that we have the member form on the site, we should secure the site with an SSL certificate. Kurt will see if we can force the site to SSL.
- At some point we may consider moving to a WordPress site in 2021. WordPress offers a number of plug-ins, both free and paid. There are also site building systems available from Wix, Weebly and SquareSpace. The current website uses Bootstrap running on cPanel. Allan will show Ed the back end of the Wordpress sites for the 2021 and 2022 conventions, and can also show Ed the back end of both a Weebly and and SquareSpace site.
- We might consider moving the hosting location to another server in the future, like IAGSDC.
- Our Zoom account expires at the end of May. Eric will renew the account and submit a receipt to Ed.

#### Community Events

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

#### Potluck Nights for 2021

- Once it’s safe to dance in person again, we will discuss scheduling potluck nights.

#### Quarterly Dances for 2021:

- Once it’s safe to dance in person again, we will discuss scheduling quarterly dances.

#### Next Board Meeting:

- April 24, 2021 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 3<sup>rd</sup> (unlikely as of the date of this agenda), May 20<sup>th</sup> 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.
- **2021 Fun Night Schedule**
- Once it's safe to dance, we'll plan how, where, and when to hold our Fun Nights again.

### 2021 Beginner Classes

- Violet Class: SSD-50 Level 1 Blast
  - *Due to the pandemic, we are not yet prepared to set a date for the next class.*

### Alternate Dance Venues for 2021

- 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]