



El Camino Reelers Board Meeting Minutes (Approved)

Saturday, April 11, 2020, 11:00 AM-11:37 AM

Remote meeting via Zoom 624-787-7466

In attendance: Allan, Ed, Eric, David, Oliver, Kurt, Ryan.

Minutes From Last Meeting

- Minutes from the 3/15/2020 board meeting were reviewed and approved by acclamation.

Financial Report (Ed)

- Ed sent a letter to the Reverend, including a check, in mid-March, and the church has not deposited the check yet. This is not normal. Eric did send the Reverend a follow-up email. *Note: on 4/17/2020, Ed noted that the check was deposited.*
- Also, only James Thompson and Dave Decot have deposited their checks.

COVID-19 Virus Response & Club Hiatus

- Santa Clara County's current shelter-in-place order runs through May 3, 2020, and there is a strong possibility that this order may be extended further. We will schedule a meeting on May 2nd to discuss reopening.
- Ed was to send a letter to Reverend Saia at St. Andrew's letting him know that we are not dancing until at least 4/21/2020, and that we will no longer be dancing on Wednesday. Ed reported that he did get a response from the Reverend, who acknowledged the fact and it was a general wishing everybody to stay safe and such.
- We have cancelled the Barry Clasper dance on 5/2/2020. Barry could be available for Halloween, but the airfare would be in excess of USD\$600.
- We will officially cancel the May 20th 2020 Fun Night. Ed will handle the website, and Allan will doublecheck Facebook. *Note: After the meeting, Allan found no upcoming events on our Facebook page.*
- David and Eric have suggested a Zoom video social hour for ECR members. Perhaps we could do this on every other Tuesday night from 7:30 PM to 8:30 PM, starting next Tuesday night (4/14/2020). We'll send out the password the morning of the meeting. Eric will establish a permanent meeting ID. We will send out the password on Tuesday afternoons and also in the Sunday night ecrtalk email.

Club Nights

- On 3/10/2020, Allan sent out an email informing all club members that we are moving all dancing to Tuesday nights, effective Tuesday, 3/31/2020, from 7:00 PM to 10:00 PM, with both Plus and Advanced tips.
- This was just before the board suspended all dancing due to COVID-19.
- We had previously decided to resume club dancing on or after April 21, 2020, depending upon the COVID-19 situation.
- Kurt was to begin tentative scheduling of callers, with the understanding that these dates are subject to cancelling if the dancing hiatus is extended.
- Starting 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 those appear to be successfully reaching a different audience segment than our Palo Alto Fun Nights.
- 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.
- Rich Reel has notified Ed that Rich is entering into a full-time contract to call on Tuesdays for another club, but that Rich is still available for Wednesdays.

Friday Potluck Nights for 2020 (David to schedule)

- **January 31st, 2020** [SAUMC confirmed] - Called by "Three of a Kind" (James Thompson, Regina Schulz, Mike Pogue), theme: "Load the Love Boat".
- **April 17th, 2020** [SAUMC confirmed] – Kurt Gollhardt - **Cancelled due to Covid-19 hiatus**
- **September 25th, 2020** [SAUMC confirmed] – Rich Reel had been confirmed. We will want to reconfirm.
- **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.** [C onfirmed 9/10/19] – ECR's 35th Anniversary Dance
 - St. Andrews confirmed.
 - Contract sent 8/10/19.
 - Contract accepted in writing by Mike on 9/10/19.
- **October 31, 2020:**
 - St. Andrews confirmed.
 - Halloween Dance. (There will not be a competing dance on this date.)

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.

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 *due to COVID-19 emergency*.**
- **Friday 06/19/2020: BDFC / Kurt Gollhardt** (if we're dancing by then, and if the BDFC is open).
- 07/xx/2020: Location TBD / Caller TBD
- Friday 08/21/2020: BDFC / Caller TBD (Jim Maxwell's Birthday)
- 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

Community Events

- The Santa Cruz LGBTQ parade has been cancelled.
- Allan has not received a response from Filoli regarding whether they will have a pride celebration this year.

ECR Membership History Project

- Eric has sent an email to Kim and Bennet to borrow copies of their remaining roster, but believes we have enough information now to start ordering hanging bars.
- Eric will send Ed a spreadsheet showing how many of each of the badges we need.
- 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.

Next Board Meeting:

- May 2nd, 2020 at 11:00 AM via Zoom. This will be a limited board meeting to discuss whether or not dancing can be safely resumed. We will schedule the next full board meeting at that meeting.

[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.

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.
 - Eric has not heard back from Reverend Saia on whether or not if we can rent St. Andrews on 2/22/20 from 1:00 PM to 5:00 PM.
 - Allan was to check with Rob to see how long he thinks a workshop should take, and if he's available for that date. 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.)