



El Camino Reelers Board Meeting Minutes

Saturday, May 1, 2021, 11:00 AM

Remote meeting via Zoom 465 455 8223

Attending: David, Ed, Eric, Michael G, Allan, Kurt, Michael L, Oliver

Minutes from Last Meeting

- Minutes from the 3/21/2021 board meeting were approved after final changes.

COVID-19 Pandemic Response/Club Hiatus

- Santa Clara County is now in the orange tier and may go into yellow soon (as of 4/23, adj. case rate is 3.2, needs to be <2.0 for yellow. Positivity rate already qualifies for yellow, however, in last week there's been a small uptick).
- As of 2/26/2021, three COVID-19 vaccines have been approved by the FDA for immediate/emergency distribution. However, the Jansen vaccine by J&J has been paused because of rare serious side effects and is just now being used again. California's vaccine distribution program has picked up. In Santa Clara County 62.7% of eligible residents (i.e. anyone 16 and older) have received at least 1 dose, and 35.1% are fully vaccinated

Picnic

- Now that the weather turned, we will try to set up another socially distanced picnic on May 22 1:30 pm. Eric will take the lead on this with Ryan. No dancing. Nothing special planned for Harvey Milk's birthday. BYO chairs, food, beverage. We'll trust everyone will follow Covid protocols and will remind people. Michael will not be able to attend. Robles Park.

To Do:

Ed to send a flyer to Eric. Will be announced right after that.

Insurance

- 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 now it looks likely that we might be able to start up in some form this summer, given that the state expects lifting of all restrictions by mid-June, unless stats worsen. Here's what the Council Insurance Chair said:
 - *As most of you have probably heard, the governor has announced that California plans to "re-open" on June 15 IF current progress is maintained related to decreasing numbers of coronavirus cases and increasing numbers of vaccinations. As of that date, the current color-coded tiers would be discontinued and all sectors can re-open. The only required precaution as presently described would be continuation of the statewide mask mandate. Based on the best information we can derive from the Governor's statement and the California Department of Public Health website, this means that square dancing - and all other dancing under our "umbrella" - can resume! Hooray!!!! As we proceed toward June, please keep in mind the following:*
 - *You should complete your insurance enrollments - if you have not already done so - at least 30 days before your first dance event. This will ensure you have your facility insurance certificate in hand and that your dancers and your hall(s) are covered.*
 - *From Carolyn - Please email or text me BEFORE you mail your check. I may be in Seattle and will have you send your check to me there.*
 - *As you schedule dances into late June, July, and August, you might consider including a cancellation clause in your announcements, contracts, and agreements - just in case the re-opening is delayed. Be sure to provide contact information such as a website or phone number so that dancers can confirm the event will occur as scheduled.*
 - *Based on current information associated with this announcement, California plans on maintaining its statewide mask mandate for some additional time. This would mean that dancers must wear masks as indicated. Of course, other cleanliness protocols such as hand-washing, hand sanitizer, and sanitizing surfaces should continue. We will continue to keep you informed as we process the ever-evolving information from the state. We do look forward to seeing you all back on the dance floor!*

- To Do:

Just need to send a check for all members to our insurance.

Venue

- St. Andrews Church and the Billy DeFrank Center have still not reopened. Allan emailed Stan Johnsen (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.

- To Do:

Eric to e-mail Stan to see if there is any news, and Gabrielle at the BdF if they have an estimated re-opening day.

Doors will be open, will have fans.

Survey

- 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. With the opening possibly happening mid-June, we should start planning for that.

- ToDo:

Michael Golden, Kurt, Eric will work on it right after the Board Meeting.

What's your comfort level M/S, Plus, Adv.

Have you been vaccinated, or expect to be in the next month or 2

If only vaxed dancers, require masks? Stick to the same square all night?, ...

Dance outside if the weather is nice enough

Website:

- ToDo:

Ed will add some info about vaccine availability from the state to the web site.

Remedial classes

Will start with Plus reviews and workshops, adding Advanced once we gain our footings. We'll likely take care of our current members and will look for new members after we're back in the saddle.

Might restrict the first few nights to ECR members only

We'll all need help getting back

First night will be a "family reunion".

Vaccination status

Might require vaccinations. Might have a list of members who are vaxed and ask visitors to bring proof if they want to attend. We will not have any weekend dances or fun nights for now, just club nights with workshops.

Zoom meetings

Will continue for now

Timeline

- Survey later this coming week
- Web-site update sometime after
- Decision after we receive survey results, likely at our next board meeting.

Recommendations for Resumption of Square Dancing

Safe Delivery of Return of Square Dancing

- *Overriding Principles*
 - *Need to protect students, callers, and dancers.*
 - *When and under what conditions to reopen.*
 - *Strategy should include staying open once open.*

Essential/ Six Safety Strategies

- ***Universal and correct use of masks***
- ***Physical distancing as much as possible (use of podding)***
- *Hand washing and respiratory etiquette*
- *Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities.*
- *Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the health department.*
- *Vaccination of all dancers and callers*

Include

- *Who is responsible by title (club president or committee, approved by board)*
- *Clearly follow club guidelines*
- *Daily COVID screening (symptom check)*
- *Use pods defined as “only documented vaccinated”*
- *Explain the plan*

Santa Clara Dancers

- *May resume dancing*
- *Caller and dancers vaccinated by two weeks*
- *No snacks or drinks; people may bring their own*
- *No hugging or physical contact beyond regular dancing at blue level until pandemic more controlled*
- *Dancers wear masks*
- *Caller remains distanced and can unmask*
- *If boosters become available, must take*
- *No visitors*
- *Immunization card copies to club*
- *No full immunization, no booster, no proof—no dancing*
- *Hand washing or hand sanitizer after every tip*
- *Door open or high ventilation if possible*
- *Reassess data weekly*
- *Avoid touching your own face*

Financial Report (Ed)

Mailing List

- Allan has been in touch with Roger Klorese as of (4/22/21), and QueerNet is aware of the email delay issues, and is working to track them down and fix them. There is not yet an ETA for doing so. Problems were mostly with people on AOL, and still exist with people on Microsoft systems, with our mails getting bounced.

Reporter from KQED

- A very good story about ECR and gay square dancing was published on the KQED web site following an interview with Ed, Allan, Kurt

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 May 29 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

- Meetup currently costs \$24.99/mo.
We will keep MeetUp, and change to the 6-moth model. Zoom will be renewed for another year this month
- Community Events
All public celebrations and community events have been cancelled until further notice due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Potluck Nights

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

Quarterly Dances

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

Next Board Meeting:

- May 29, 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 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.
- **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]