



El Camino Reelers Board Meeting Minutes

Saturday, June 19, 2021, 11:00 AM

Remote meeting via Zoom 465 455 8223

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

Minutes from Last Meeting

- Minutes from the 5/29/2021 board were approved.

COVID-19 Pandemic Response/Club Hiatus

- As of 06/15, the State of California has fully reopened, though mask mandates remain in place in certain settings.

Picnic June 26

- A picnic with Kurt as caller was planned for July 10. Kurt has a conflict on that date, so after discussing between July 11 and June 26, it was decided to have the picnic on June 26 instead. Eric has reached out to all club callers, and four (Kurt, Michael Pogue, Michael Levy, Dave Decot) have responded that they will attend and call.
- One club member is adamant we require proof. There is a new, electronic way to get a vaccination proof (<https://myvaccinerecord.cdph.ca.gov/>). You can submit your info there (name, DOB, email or cell#), and they will send you a QR code "once the information is confirmed", though that may take a while if their record of your vaccination does not include e-mail or cell#. Do we require proof sent ahead of time (we have not announced that, yet, and time is running short), or at the site (might slow down things, but we can ask people to come early). Note that Oliver had volunteered to be the keeper of records for vaccinations, but is not available June 26th.

It was decided that we WILL require everyone to be fully vaccinated. For the picnic, attestations will suffice, since it is an outdoor event, but for our indoor club nights we will require actual proof.

- To Do: Ed will send a revised announcement (with revised flyer) after running it by Eric and Oliver. Oliver will follow up and ask people to provide proof ahead of July 13, and ahead of the picnic if possible. At the picnic there will be a sign-in sheet that says something like "I attest that I have been fully vaccinated". David will bring sanitizers to the picnic. Will see if we dance on the basketball court or the grass.
- Callers at picnic will be paid \$25 per caller

Insurance

- Ed has sent a check for all members to our insurance. We're insured to dance. Will send a follow-up check for members whose primary club is some other, but whose club was unreachable by the insurance

Venue

- Eric e-mailed Stan to see if there is any news, and Gabrielle at the BdF if they have an estimated re-opening day.
- No news from BdF, yet, who has only been able to offer their parking lot in connection with their "garage sale" so far.
- Stan has replied:

The good answer is "yes", we will be pleased to have you in our building with a few limitations. After consulting our District Superintendent we have developed a few protocols for use of the building at this time. Here is a brief summary:

- 1) The kitchen will be out-of-bounds to all but our infant-toddler center for the time being. If you need to retrieve stuff from the back hall you can enter it through the doors behind the chancel.
- 2) Masks should be worn by folks who have not been vaccinated.
- 3) Open the doors for maximum ventilation.

You are certainly welcome to use the patio although I don't know how the textured surface will be compatible with your dance moves and there might not be much light. If you do want to dance out there you will find an electrical outlet on one of the short lamp posts. Kindly keep any volume down in consideration of our neighbors.

Note that we had a break-in last year and have re-keyed the facility. You can e-mail me or phone me to

make arrangements for you or someone else in your group to meet me at the church to get a new key. Note that I will be away for the rest of this week so any meeting to pass the key would have to be after this coming Saturday.

It will be good to have you back "home".

- Doors will be open, will have fans.
- Will start on July 13th. *Eric* to verify date with Stan. Need to get key and make a couple of duplicates and distribute before the event.
- Will buy two fans. *Oliver* to check for fans and run them by the board, then buy them. *Eric* to check with Stan if we can leave them at the church.
- *Kurt* will start scheduling callers for Tuesdays starting July 13. Starting with remedial classes 7:30-9:30, but will likely start earlier and go a little longer once we have Plus, A2, and class-level calling .
- BYO snacks and drinks initially, since the kitchen is off limits (no access to ice trays, etc.)
- \$8 door, first night free

Survey

- Results:
Everyone will be vaccinated by June 15. Comfortable with everyone being vaccinated, 50/50 split on mask mandate and handwashing. Caller can be unmasked if 12 feet away. No requirement for no-hands or gloves.

Remedial classes

Will start with Plus reviews and workshops and see what the floor can handle, 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.

First time will be a "family reunion" at the June 26 picnic.

Vaccination status

Will require vaccinations. Need to register with the board (*Oliver*) and provide proof of full vaccination (e.g. attach picture of vaccination card to e-mail). Will keep track on roster (on Google docs) Will leave hand sanitizers out until after the last tip. CA guidance is that fully vaccinated people can congregate with other fully vaccinated people indoors without masks or social distancing

Will have a list of members who are fully 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 at least through end of July, but without callers starting in July.

Website:

- Will be updated with changes once we have confirmation from church.

Club Nights:

Resume dancing at St. Andrew's (provided church is available) on Tuesday, July 13th

Fully vaccinated only

Doors open and strong fans blowing

Masks optional

Hand-washing or sanitizing after each tip encouraged. Sanitizers to be left out until after last tip

Caller will be 12 ft away

Start with Plus reviews, add more as we get stronger

First evening free, with tip jar

Sign-in sheet with dancers' names who have provided proof of vaccination ahead of time

No snack table or shareable food

Hugs with permission

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. Currently still sporadic issues

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.
To-Do: Ed will have them remove Wednesday once we have confirmation from church for July 13th

Social Hour/Activities

- Eric and Allan have conducted six gaming sessions, which went well. The next gaming night has not been scheduled. There will be one as part of the Houston Virtual Convention around Fourth of July. Will schedule another ECR gaming afternoon for August.
- Kurt will stop scheduling Zoom callers.
- Currently, ECR social hour is running every other week, starting 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?
- 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 once we feel comfortable doing so. As of 6/19/2021, there is not yet a reopening date for the Center.
- When we resume club nights with alternating tips, 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 have changed to the 6-moth model. Zoom has been renewed for another year this month
- Community Events
Some public celebrations and community events have started up again after the re-opening of California.

Potluck Nights

- Once it's safe to dance in person again and we feel comfortable to have shareable food, 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:

- July 18, 2021 at 10:30 am. On Zoom (Dues for October)

[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]