



El Camino Reelers Board Meeting Minutes

Sunday, July 18, 2021, 11:00 AM

Remote meeting via Zoom 465 455 8223

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

Minutes from Last Meeting

- Minutes from the 6/19/2021 board meeting were approved.

Activities since last meeting

- A picnic with Kurt, Michael Pogue, Michael Levy, and Dave Decot was held June 26. 3 squares, 4 callers. Might want to do it again. Will use it as a back-up if we can't dance indoors again. May do it instead of potlucks while St. Andrews kitchen is unavailable. Might look for a place that has a restroom instead of Robles Park. Need to decide whether or not invite other clubs.
- July 13 was our first club night since start of the hiatus. We had 4 ½ squares – 38 danceers, 1 caller, 1 guest interested in our next class. We will see if attendance will drop off. Great enthusiasm of other club members that we dance on Tuesdays. Some expressed interest in joining ECR. Should have some handouts at club night for guests interested in classes. *Eric* to follow up with Julio.

COVID-19 Pandemic Response/Club Nights

- ECR requires proof of vaccination to attend our club nights. Proof can be sent to vax@reelers.org (goes to Oliver), or bring proof to the dance. Oliver is keeping a list of vaccinated people.
- Handwashing or sanitizing after each tip encouraged. Sanitizers to be left out until after last tip.
- Sign-in sheet with dancers' names for contact tracing.
- BYO snacks and drinks initially, since the kitchen is off limits (no access to ice trays, etc.)
- \$8 door
- Seven of the Bay Area counties have instituted a mask recommendation for indoor gatherings of people (with unknown or mixed vaccination status). We will not change our policy for now, pending on confirmation from Stan that the Church does not require masking. *Eric* to follow up. Any dancer who feels more comfortable doing so, is welcome to wear a mask.
- Offer subscriptions again in the new membership year.
- Will keep current easy review format 7:30-9:30 for now, with 1 A2 tip. Will huddle on the floor to decide when and how to expand to include more A2.

Membership

- Dues will be \$50 as before, due in October.
- *Ed* to get a badge for Ryan.
- Will order a badge for Vicky Woods' badge to be pinned at Minneapolis.
- *Ed* will put a notice of Vicky's passing on the website.

Other dancing

Venue

- No news from Billy de Frank, yet, who have only been able to offer their parking lot in connection with their "garage sale" so far.
- *Eric* picked up keys for St. Andrews and has made 3 copies. David, Eric, Ed, and Oliver have keys. *Eric* will make two more keys for Michael and Kurt.
- *Eric, Ed, Oliver* will clean out the locker at the church before next Tuesday's club night, and grab the easel.

Potluck Nights

- Once 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. We'll talk at the next (August) meeting about scheduling a Halloween dance.

Zoom meetings

- Will continue for now at least through end of July, but without callers starting in July. *Eric* will ask attendees if they want to continue. Might want to change to let them dial in for club night if we have connection at the church.

Website:

- Has been updated with changes, and lists callers through end of August.

Financial Report (Ed)

- Tuesday: \$150 for church, \$50 for caller, \$185 donations. Would have been a \$90+ plus if everyone paid \$8. Break-even 3 squares

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.
- Allan is about to throw in the towel and suggested to move to other mailing lists like Google Groups. *Eric* to follow up with Allan on status and recommendations (and possible help migrating).

SCVSDA Club Info Page

- The SCVSDA page has been updated to show us dancing Plus/A2 on Tuesdays. Still lists quarterly "hoedowns", aspirational at the moment.

Social Hour/Activities

- Eric and Allan have conducted six gaming sessions, which went well. The next gaming night has not been scheduled. *Eric* will schedule another ECR gaming afternoon for August 14th.
- 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 7/17/2021, 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 using our easel.

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 in June.

Community Events

- Some public celebrations and community events have started up again after the re-opening of California.

Next Board Meeting:

- Sunday, August 15, 2021 at 10:30 am. Location: Zoom

[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.
- 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.

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]