



El Camino Reelers Board Meeting Minutes (Approved)

Sunday, August 30, 2020 11:00 AM - 12:12 PM

Remote meeting via Zoom 465 455 8223

In Attendance: Eric, Ed, Allan, Kurt, David, Robin.

Minutes From Last Meeting

- Revised minutes from the 7/25/2020 board meeting were approved by acclamation.

Financial Report (Ed)

- At the June meeting, we agreed to push out our dues expiration for each month that we're not dancing, and "restart" memberships whenever we start club dancing again.
- Eric brought up the question of the people who had paid to dance in advance (subscriptions). David believes we do not have any outstanding subscription balances at this point.
- Eric went to the church and retrieve the subscription list(s). The remaining subscription club night dance was March 17th, and we danced the week before, so there are 9 people owed one weeknight dance. Eric will email each person to let them know that they are owed one weeknight dance.
- Ed has about \$15 in cash collected before the shut down. He'll deposit it eventually.

Insurance

- On 7/19/2020, Robin alerted the board that she had received an email suggesting that the United Square Dancers of America ("USDA") has suspended liability insurance until the CDC publishes guidelines allowing groups to mix again.
- On 7/20/2020, Ed confirmed that ECR is insured through the Peninsula Square Dance Federation, which he believes buys their insurance from USDA. Ed sent an update from Nancy Shelton on 8/12/2020:

PENINSULA SQUARE DANCE FEDERATION - AUGUST 7, 2020

I received an email from Carolyn, our Council Insurance Chair with a "plan for 2021 renewals". She doesn't have the cost of insurance yet for 2021 but there are a couple of choices for you:

"48n'8" means your club can get their 2021 certificates with the minimum fee of \$48 and the minimum number of 8 members. The rest of the club can be added later as dances get up and running again. Keep in mind there are no refunds or pro-rata from the insurance company.

Which clubs might choose this plan? Clubs who...

- *Need to have insurance certificates in hand to book their facilities*
- *Have members who travel often, attend out of state conventions, or are "snowbirds" and need the medical coverage for "wherever they dance".*
- *Are planning a New Year's Eve dance.*

"30 days before" means clubs can submit their insurance renewal with a complete club roster and payment 30 days before their first dance of 2021. Keep in mind there are no pro-rata or refunds from the insurance company.

This plan will not save the clubs any money (the renewal price remains the same whether they renew in January, April or October), but it will prevent them from losing money if we don't end up dancing at all in 2021.

*Please think about what you want to do and let me know. I should have a cost for the insurance next month. I will send my usual letter out then. Your current insurance covers you through December 31, 2020 (until 12:01am on January 1st, 2021). **This matters if you are doing a New Year's dance that will require coverage for 2021.***

Be well! Feel free to call me 916-417-9727 --Nancy

- The board will wait for Nancy’s next letter with insurance rates, and will discuss this further at that time.

COVID-19 Pandemic Response/Club Hiatus

- The San Jose Mercury News reported and updated county reopening plan on 8/29/2020:

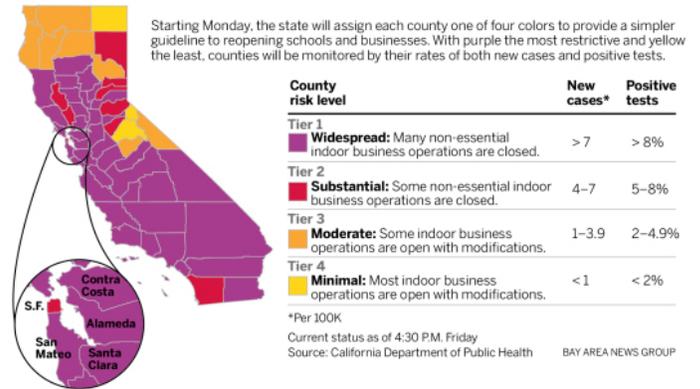
Gov. Gavin Newsom on Friday unveiled a new system to monitor the coronavirus in California, revamping the state’s watchlist for its 58 counties into color-coded levels that should simplify the process of reopening.

The new system starts Monday and, in some ways, is more permissive, allowing even the most restrictive counties to open retail, shopping centers and other businesses such as barbers and hair salons indoors.

The new guidelines focus only on rates for new cases and positive tests and require counties to meet certain thresholds for a minimum of three weeks before moving from purple, to red, to orange and then yellow. Depending on what happens this weekend, most Bay Area counties will start out purple.

The state specifically excluded a green level, Newsom said, “because we don’t believe there’s a green light that says go back to the way things were.

SETTING NEW STANDARDS



Since this was just announced over the weekend, we don’t yet know which tier will allow square dancing. Most likely, indoor dancing will be deemed a Tier 4 (or Tier 5) activity, with the same restriction as exercise classes.

- We will discuss more specific potential reopening dates at a later date. We will send out a survey/poll to ECR members to ask what they would be comfortable doing and when.
- St. Andrews Church and the Billy DeFrank Center have still not reopened.

Club Nights

- Eric sent out a survey asking ECR members if they want to see virtual dancing in future ECR social hours.
- For now, we will leave ECR social hour running every other week, starting at 7:00 PM, with 30 minutes of virtual dancing, followed by a “social hour” at 7:30 PM.
 - We can send out the ECR paypal link for a virtual tip jar.
- We will try creating a breakout room for the next ECR club night. The host will assign people to a breakout room.
 - Allan will send a mock-up message including the virtual dancing/breakout room link to the board, and then to ECRtalk: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aq6h0_70wUA
 - The announcement will include information that if anyone wants an introduction to virtual dancing, we’ll start with that.
- Oaktown 8’s is doing virtual dancing for half of their club nights, which are every other week.
- After this first ECR dance/social hour, we will invite Oaktown 8’s for the following week and thereafter. We want to give ECR members a chance to understand how to work with the new format.
- Eric will reach out to John Spitzer at Oaktown to invite Oaktown 8’s to join ECR starting at the next virtual club night.
- We will ask ECR members at the next couple of club nights if they’d like to try online gaming/trivia, or watching a movie together via Netflix, or zoom games like Kahoots.

- Eric has sent a 1 PM gaming invitation to board members to try out some online gaming.
- Once Santa Clara County announces Tier 4 dates, we can consider if we want to try outdoor dancing.
- 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 retaining the quarterly Friday Fun Nights at the Billy De Frank Center in San Jose. As of 8/30/2020, 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.

Potluck Nights for 2020 (David to schedule)

- January 31st, 2020 - Called by *Three of a Kind* (James Thompson, Regina Schulz, Mike Pogue), theme: "Load the Love Boat".
- April 17th, 2020 – Kurt Gollhardt - **Cancelled due to Covid-19**
- **September 25th, 2020** [SAUMC confirmed] – **Cancelled due to Covid-19** - Rich Reel had been confirmed. David will contact Rich to let him know of the event cancellation.
- **November 27th, 2020** [SAUMC confirmed] – ("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. — **Cancelled due to COVID-19.**
 - St. Andrews confirmed.
 - Contract sent 8/10/19.
 - Contract accepted in writing by Mike on 9/10/19.
 - Allan sent a cancellation to Mike on 6/26/2020. Mike confirmed the cancellation. He is not available to call a Halloween dance, nor a virtual dance.
- **October 31, 2020:** Halloween Dance, conducted as a virtual dance called by Kurt Gollhardt.
 - This will be a two part event: costume contest and trivia contest, and a 45 to 60 minute virtual dance session, order to be determined. A tip jar will be provided for the caller.
 - Ed will work up a poster for the virtual dance.

Community Events

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

Next Board Meeting:

- Saturday, September 26, 2020 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.
- 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 cancelled *due to COVID-19 emergency.*
 - Friday 06/19/2020: BDFC / Kurt Gollhardt / *Cancelled due to COVID-19 emergency.*
 - 07/xx/2020: Location TBD / Caller TBD / *Cancelled due to COVID-19 emergency.*
 - Friday 08/21/2020: BDFC / Caller TBD (Jim Maxwell's Birthday) / *Cancelled due to COVID-19 emergency.*
 - 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

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.

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.

- 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]