



El Camino Reelers Board Meeting Minutes

Sunday, September 26, 2021, 10:30 AM PDT, 19:30 CET

Remote meeting via Zoom 465 455 8223

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

Minutes from Last Meeting

- Minutes from the 8/19/2021 board were approved.

Activities since last meeting

- Club nights have 1-2 squares. There was a drop-off after the first night, possibly due to the mask mandate, and attendance has continued to decline, possibly because other clubs have opened up again as well. Eric followed up with Julio..

Club Nights / COVID-19 Pandemic Response

- Priscilla Yarbrough has asked if she could practice calling rounds during Club Night. The Board decided that as a square dance club, we would not have rounds during our club nights, also because it would make breaks from square dancing last longer, but when we have quarterly dances again with cueing during the breaks, we would welcome her as one of the cuers. Kurt has relayed that decision to Priscilla. *Eric to get back to her officially.*
- \$8 door – *See Financials*
- When we resume club nights with alternating tips 7:30-9:00, 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.
- Eric suggested it would be good to focus on a few calls per week. *Kurt* will fold that into the caller instructions for the new Club Night format. Michael Levy volunteered to coordinate. Mike Pogue said he called “everything” and there were no issues. Kurt instructed callers to do more challenging, some more sashayed and left-handed calling. We’ll workshop as needed if caller sees that dancers have problems.
- *Ed will come up with a handout that has general club info on small format.*
- ECR has always been a club that tolerated and looked to help weaker dancers.
- *David to follow up with Rich Reel about his Tuesday availability. We’ll contact him for non-Tuesday events*
- Two more fans and an extension cord have been provided to the church

Beginner Classes

- Due to the pandemic, we are not yet prepared to set a date for the next class.
- Violet Class: SSD-50 Level 1 Blast

Membership

- Dues will be \$50 as before, due in October.
- ECR Badge orders are on hold since BadgeWorks are having supply issues with plastics. *Any update on this?*
- *Ed* to get a badge for Ryan.
- Will order a badge for Vicky Woods’ badge to be pinned at Minneapolis since she was the ‘founding’ ECR caller.
- *Ed* has put a notice of Vicky’s passing on the website.

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 – when?
- 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.

Financials

- 24 people have renewed, \$1520 in dues and donations
- Tuesday Club Nights: In last two weeks we've been losing \$50-80
- Lucky Steppers' door fee is \$10, \$30/month
- We will up the door fee to \$10 starting October 5th, and start with subscription program. Instead of 8 for the price of 7, we'll offer \$35/month. *Ed(?) to come up with an announcement*

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. Website still says "During COVID-19, all [...] Activities are Online"
- Eric picked up keys for St. Andrews and has made 3 copies. David, Eric, Ed, and Oliver have keys. Kurt got a key from Stan. *Eric will make another key for Michael(s).*

Picnic

- Picnic at Peels Park on Sept 25 had about 1 ½ squares. Dancing was challenging on the uneven lawn.
- Sound volume was a bit loud.
- May do it instead of potlucks while St. Andrews kitchen is unavailable and sharing of food is unadvised due to Covid.
- Will use it as a back-up if we can't dance indoors again.
- Next picnic will be in Robles Park on October 30. All club callers invited. Oliver will be out of town. *Ed will come up with a flyer and announcement*

Fun Nights

- Currently on hold.
- We previously decided that whenever we resume dancing, the monthly Fun Nights held at St. Andrews (twice a quarter) will move to Tuesday nights 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.
- 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 8/14/2021, there is not yet a reopening date for the Center.
- 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.

Potluck Nights

- Currently on hold.
- Once we feel comfortable to have shareable food, we will discuss scheduling potluck nights.
- In the meantime, we'll have picnics

Quarterly Dances

- Once it's safe to dance in person again, we will discuss scheduling quarterly dances.
- No decision has been made about scheduling a Halloween dance, due to the uncertainties surrounding Covid. Will do a picnic on Oct 30. Picnic at 1:00, dancing at 1:30, ends at 4:00. Might have little trick-or-treat bag for everyone. Might want to bring a table for the caller. Looks like pavilion can't be reserved. Will be at Robles Park.
- Eric reserved church just in case
- Club callers, Kurt can bring a table, Michel can provide equipment.
- Masks optional, hand sanitizers will be provided (*Eric*). Vax verified.

- Costumes suggested

Quarterly Workshops

- Currently on hold
- 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.)

Mailing List

- We've given up trying to fix the problems with QueerNet.
- boardECR has been moved. **ECRTalk is in process.**
- The 2 accounts on gmail ECR had were merged into information@reelers.org.

Social Activities

Game Night

- Eric and Allan have conducted seven gaming sessions, which went well. The next gaming night has not been scheduled. The most recent game afternoon was August 14th.
- There will be no game nights for the time being because of a drop of attendance.

Online Presence

Meetup

- Meetup currently costs \$24.99/mo. We will keep MeetUp and have changed to the 6-moth model.

Zoom

- Zoom has been renewed for another year in June.
- ECR Zoom meetings have been stopped. John Kenny's interclub Zoom meetings on Thursday are available for members to connect.

Facebook

- We will ask Dave Decot to delete the group *once Eric downloaded the pictures.*

Other

- Eric posts on Instagram, posts are sent to Twitter.

Website

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

SCVSDA Club Info Page

Community Events

- Some public celebrations and community events have started up again after the re-opening of California.
- We won't participate in anything for the time being, due to the Covid situation.

Next Board Meeting:

- Saturday, October 23, 2021 at 10:30 am. Location: Zoom

[End]