

## Notes from RAF Return To Dancing Task Force (RTD) Meeting #1 - 7:00pm via Zoom - 9/24/2020

### Present:

Jeff & Debbie Blood, Don Naulin, Anne Granger, Gil Porter, Dave Eno, Mike Callahan, Jim Gotta, Eileen Webster, Mary Martin, Phil LaRussa, Henry Capron, Peter Emmel

### Absent:

Rick & Donna LaDonna, Bob & Donna Indovina, Ron Brown, Amy & Kris Aeckerle

### ADMINISTRATIVE Introduction by Jeff & Debbie Blood (RAF Presidents):

- Requesting to speak?
  - Physically raise your hand if you are on-camera
  - Others use "Raise Hand feature on Zoom
- Explained their planned role:
  - Facilitate meetings; Help with organization; Share information for & from the Task Force
- Outlined the mission & process of the Task Force:
  - Discuss and determine what the RAF Should do / Can do to help clubs recover from COVID
  - Timeframe? Before and after dancing resumes
  - Whole group or sub-groups? Decide as we go along
- Any additions to the agenda?
  - None.

**AGENDA** (Three main points based on timing - **headings in bold**, discussion notes in plain; A = Action):

#### 1) What can RTD do now to keep dancers connected?

##### a) Weekly gatherings on Zoom

Currently known: Silver Squares/Belles & Beaus (combined); Village Squares; Shirts N Skirts

##### b) Individual social gatherings by callers & clubs

Picnics; Park gatherings; Garage dances; Basements (Callahan); Restaurant (Cayuga)

##### c) Virtual Dancing

###### Currently:

In our area Gil Porter (Pandemic Squares - Brenda Bixby - 2-couple format)

Started in April with maybe 20 dancers; Diminished to 8-10 currently active

A1a Need to get feedback from dropouts - invite them back, or to other options (**Peter/Brenda**)

A1b Outside area: Facebook Groups (Peter get list from Brenda)

###### Expansion of Virtual Possibilities:

A2 Teaching: (**CCR** will consider possibilities – format, call selection, etc)

Forming in-person beginner classes – probably not practical for at least year.

Virtual Beginner Class (Callers felt this is do-able; Callers will discuss further)

Question of timing relative to club restarts

Question of call program - SSD 50 or other (If change is coming, now is the time)

Review/Workshop vs "Just Dance" (maybe offer separately - different days?)

Virtual program tailored to returning "partial" 2020 grads and 2019 grads?

Teaching challenges:

Demonstration? (Callers generally felt this should not be a problem in virtual setting)

... with good camera setup. Dancers can do effective demos on-screen

A3 (Peter: Camera needs to be high enough, so folks can see the movement flow)

Angels? (Club couple could join, or invite, class couple at their home)

... or caller could come to home where two couples were dancing

Descriptions need to be very clear.

Dancing: Modes/Venues/Times?

Multiple possibilities need to be sorted out:

CCR - coordination of call selection across our area

Clubs - promotion and dancer recruitment

Both - scheduling

For widest appeal, consensus is to aim level at "RUSTY MAINSTREAM FUN"

Sounds like a "Sub-Group" project

A4 (Peter offered to make a 'straw-man' proposal):

How to organize for online and coordinate sessions with clubs that are physically dancing

How to gauge demand and recruit

Other virtual dance formats: Rounds? Lines?

Ballroom & Line dancing are resuming in public venues

RAF Round dancing still on hold (venue availability)

(Cuers will be receiving our notes)

Other virtual opportunities & resources:

Facebook Groups:

“Restarting Square Dancing” – See what others are doing

“Virtual Square Dancing” – Online Dancing Events

**d) Small. Private gatherings:**

Successful - Dave & Mary Jo Webster; Mike & Wanda Callahan

Typically Limited to 1-2 squares; 100% masks while dancing and sanitizer between tips

**2) What can RTD do before clubs return to in-person dancing?**

**a) Safety Measures** (RTD can research & provide guidelines):

Facilities

Fogging before and after – Phil (Copy Cats) recommends Ryobi One 18v cordless \$175 Amazon

Air purifier – Dave Eno recommends Honeywell True HEPA 18”via x 19” tall; \$241

(<https://www.honeywellstore.com/store/products/honeywell-50250-true-hepa-germ-fighting-allergen-reducer-air-purifier.htm>)

Most are setting headcount limits

Dancers

Some dancers are pushing to return, but many are waiting for vaccine

Most are happy with mask or face shield; Not bandana or neckband

Sign-in to:

Take temperature & ask symptoms

Collect contact tracing info in case of exposure & need for self-quarantine

Promise to report if test positive within \_\_\_?\_\_ days

Some favor “same square for whole dance” approach (limits air sharing)

One “incident” will set everything back; Odds are that there will not be a spreader in the hall...

... but if there is, then odds jump to 50/50 ...or higher? of someone (maybe many) catching it.

A5 Copy Cats (Mary) and Silver Squares (Anne) agreed to digest and develop a Safety Guidelines Draft

**b) Venue status is currently a limiting factor** (Not an action area for RTD, but FYI):

Penfield Baptist (Copy Cats) Opening Oct 1 with COVID Rules - Copy Cats evaluating

Greece Methodist (Silver Squares) Opening Nov 1 with COVID Rules - Silver Squares evaluating

Perinton Rec open now w/ COVID Rules – Jim Gotta dance drew 10 dancers - Mostly masked

Pittsford United Church (Village Squares) Opening soon w/ COVID Rules – 6ft distance is deal breaker

Chili 1st Baptist (Cloverleafs) Working on it

**3) What can RTD do to Help Clubs Bring Dancers Back to Dancing?**

Ideas (mostly for clubs):

Personal phone call invitation to members, recent (2019) grads & interrupted class of 2020

Never mind levels; Fun dancing; We’re all “Rusty Mainstream” until we’re back in gear

Welcoming social atmosphere

Safety measures documented

Classes later - maybe a year - 1st focus is on existing dancers and recent classes

A6 Callers (CCR) get together on call selection / coordination

Cater to local dancing; Let “festival travelers” fend for themselves for now - be angels

SSD program? ...undecided. Maybe separate group? Is that a good idea? Needs discussion.

**4) Review of action items:**

A1 Peter w/ contact Brenda about getting feedback from Pandemic Squares dropouts  
(... and encourage them to participate in next phase) ... and get list of virtual dancing web links

A2 CCR will consider Virtual Dance program for our area:  
Start with broadening workshop & dance opportunities for recent grads & existing dancers  
Then possibly add beginner classes  
Callers as a team / in rotation / or other scheme??

A3 Peter will think about camera setup for good demos in an online class

A4 Peter w/ draft a “Straw-Man” proposal for virtual offerings - as reference point for callers and RTD  
...soon enough for CCR to consider and correct

A5 Mary and Anne will draft safety guidelines / checklist reference sheet for clubs returning to dance

A6 Adding to A2 – Callers will consider call selection & coordination for in-person dancing and (later) classes  
... plan to report thinking / maybe consensus at next meeting (to share with RTD and club leaders)

## 5) Next Meeting

Thursday, October 29, 7pm, via Zoom

## 6) Subsequent Activity

### a) Email from Gil Porter:

Hi All,

Regarding our discussion on safety at dances, I think there are primarily four issues:

1. Is the facility clean?

Fogging has been suggested and we should do the research to understand how good it is.

2. Are the attendees contagious?

Temperature has been suggested and, again, we should do the research to understand how good it is including asymptomatic folks.

3. Masks, distancing, etc. -

I don't think this really matters since, if someone is contagious, someone else will get it ... regardless of social distancing and masks.

4. Personal cleanliness -

Are the attendees free of virus on their person, clothing, etc.

We really haven't explored this one and how to combat it.

I will do some research on these issues but others should weigh in.

This is off the top of my head and there are possibly other issues so please comment.

/Gil

### b) Email from Mike Callahan:

I thought the meeting went extremely well. Lot's of good discussion and ideas.

I will try and schedule a CCR zoom meeting where the area callers can discuss the choreography discussions that were brought up tonight.

We will try and get this done before the next Return to Square Dancing meeting on Oct 29

So, please put us on the agenda for that meeting.

Thanks.

Mike Callahan

### c) Email from Dave Eno:

Honeywell air purifier link

<https://www.honeywellstore.com/store/products/honeywell-50250-true-hepa-germ-fighting-allergen-reducer-air-purifier.htm>

Respectfully submitted,

Peter Emmel

9/24/2020