Announcement on skipped last call because of ethcc / hlgf

Housekeeping reminders

- Conferences:
  - ethCC:
    - 1.x
      - Stateless talks - Piper Meridam shootout + will be needed for Besu in the future
      - Eth2 research updates
      - Besu shoutouts and talks
      - COVID19 problems
  - HLGF:
    - Unfortunate timing with EthCC
    - EEA and DAML talks did Besu shoutouts
    - Good presence on Besu workshop
  - Not many more coming up
  - Upcoming virtual conferences
    - Intercon
    - Edcon
    - Ethereal NY
    - Consensus 2020

- Releases
  - 1.4 out
  - 1.5 planned for Q2
  - Long beta cycle had good reasons, but with unintended consequences
    - Try to avoid it next time
    - Calendar timing was bad, with holidays in between
  - ETC was impacted by the long release cycle as well
  - MultiTenancy, TLS, Tracing APIs were released
  - Trace-block coming in 1.4.2
  - External Kafka and postgres plugins have been released
  - Next v1.5
    - Performance improvement coming up
    - Stateless: on-demand state retrieval, instead of retrieving everything
    - KECHACK mining on ETC, phoenix is rolling (equivalent of Istanbul)
    - Mainnet EIP work:
      - Eth2 BLS precompile
      - EVM changes
      - EIP 1559: fee market change
      - Work started for 1.5 - probably on mainnet by EOY
    - 1.5 RC - Shipped before summer
  - 1.6
    - 1.x work continuation
    - Other consensus algos
    - Privacy group consensus
    - X-privacy group comms
    - On-chain privacy

- Certification
  - Contact us if you want to participate in the certification

- Next contributor call