Notes For SLCC Zoom Meeting 6-17-2025

- Hosted by Robbie
- In Attendance, Robbie, Kevin, Richard, Don, Rod, Bob, Scott, Michael, and Ron

Quick recap

The team discussed technical modifications and repairs for various Atari components, including board revisions, video improvements, and case restoration techniques. They shared updates on recent Atari-related content and projects, including a prototype computer case and a custom chiller system for lab testing. The conversation ended with discussions about upcoming events and equipment needs, including plans for monitor displays and power supply replacements.

Next steps

- Kevin: Follow up with Eric about the VCF application if no response received within a week
- Kevin: Visit Tap Plastics in Pleasanton to get advice on the right glue for repairing the Atari 1450 prototype case
- Kevin: Get badges made for VCF attendees, including one for Sharon
- Kevin: Get the 1450 case glued correctly using appropriate adhesive methods discussed
- Kevin: Arrange for 3D scanning of the finished 1450 case for future reproduction
- Ronald: Bring Sony CRT monitor and LCD display to VCF for the Atari display
- Kevin: Bring 1084 and 1701 Commodore monitors to VCF
- Bob: Contact Adrian Black via email regarding the video mod credit
- Kevin: Bring LCD displays and power supplies for the 1450 displays at VCF
- Team: Bring extra power supplies and reliable power strips to the show
- Michael: Continue development and testing of the tabletop chiller prototype for approximately one month before demonstrating the working unit

Summary

800XLBoard Revision Discussion

The team discussed board revisions and modifications for the 800XL, with Scott and Kevin examining the board's components and identifying the need to verify the correct revision number. Michael shared a schematic showing possible video modifications, including options to disconnect the Chroma mix into the Luma by clipping C54 or R67, while Scott mentioned removing C56 if present. Rod and Scott discussed improving video quality by adjusting resistors to achieve 75 ohms and noted that RF shielding might not be necessary for modern setups.

Adrian's Atari Content and Collaboration

The group discussed that Bob was credited twice on a Retro website for his work on the Artari 800 XL Mod and its video Mod upgrade, which was featured on Adrian's Digital Basement. Kevin shared that Adrian, who primarily works on Commodore computers, had recently been doing more Atari-related content and was

complementing Bob's work. The group located Adrian's email address, misteradrianblack@gmail.com, and discussed his approach to troubleshooting, noting that while his methods were sometimes convoluted, he showed respect for Atari's reliability compared to Commodore systems.

- **Atari Case Repair Discussion**

- Kevin discussed repairing an Atari 1450 case, which is falling apart and requires specific glue to connect its ports. Richard suggested visiting Tap Plastics in Pleasanton, as they could help identify the correct adhesive for the clear, painted plastic case. Kevin planned to take the case to Tap Plastics the next day for guidance on repair.

- **Prototype Computer Case Discussion**

- The group discussed a prototype computer case that Kevin had received from Bob, who had obtained it from Bruce. Kevin shared details about the case's features, including its prototype status and unique design elements. They determined that the case was likely never fully developed, as evidenced by its incomplete state and the presence of mock-up components. Kevin expressed interest in having the case repaired and potentially displaying it at a vintage computer festival.

- **Plastic Case Restoration Techniques**

- The group discussed restoration techniques for a large plastic case, with Scott suggesting adding bridging pieces behind cracks and using paper clips in epoxy for reinforcement. Rod introduced UV-curable resin as a potential restoration material, though Richard noted it had limited adhesion properties. Kevin shared details about his restoration project, including plans to 3D scan the case for public use once completed, and mentioned he had both single and dual-floppy drive versions of the case.

- **Floppy Board Design and Badges**

- The group discussed the design of a board to connect floppies to the 1450 XL, with Kevin explaining that while standard parallel connections are possible, a custom board would be needed to duplicate the drive controller from the Tong board. Kevin mentioned he would be getting more badges made in Pleasanton and agreed to create a special badge for Sharon to attend a computer show, suggesting she could demonstrate sewing and knitting skills. The conversation concluded with brief updates from Richard and Ron, with Richard noting he had been busy with work on software distribution.

- **Prepping for Atari Event Equipment**

- Ron discussed replacing a power supply for his computer, explaining his choice of a 5V, 3A unit with a metal DIN connector. Kevin and Ron discussed bringing monitors to an upcoming event, with Kevin planning to bring several monitors including a repainted 1084 and a 1701 with an Atari badge. They agreed that having extra monitors and power supplies was advisable due to the risk of equipment failures at shows. Michael mentioned that he had been working on a project for his job and had not been involved in Atari-related activities recently.

- **3d-Printed Lab Chiller Control Panel**

- Michael presented his project, a 3D-printed control panel for a tabletop chiller designed for lab testing of electronic components. The device can control up to 10 amps at 120V or 240V, manage refrigeration compressors, and display pressure, temperature, and runtime data. Michael explained he had spent the past 1.5-2 months developing the control system, which includes custom PCB design, firmware, and a user interface, and plans to complete the refrigeration system within a month. The device, which measures about 10x10x10 inches, can reach temperatures as low as -60 degrees Celsius and will be 3D printed using Michael's Bambu printer for the frame and other components.

- **Compact Gas Chiller System Design**

- Michael described his project to create a compact gas chiller system that can achieve temperatures as low as -60°C (-112°F) using a combination of ethane and isobutane refrigerants. He explained the system's design, which uses compressed air to create extreme cold for testing electronic components in harsh environments like Antarctica or Alaska. Michael noted that while the chiller produces some heat, it is small enough that it would not significantly impact a typical laboratory's air conditioning system. The discussion concluded with Robbie taking over for Kevin, who had technical difficulties, and the conversation ended with plans to reconvene the following week.

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