Notes For SLCC Zoom Meeting July 15th 2025

- Hosted by Kevin
- In Attendance, Kevin, Robbie, Mariano, Don, Bob, Ron, Rod, and Scott
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Quick recap

- The group discussed various Atari hardware projects, including custom-built computers, vintage modems, and rare cases, while preparing for an upcoming VCF event where they plan to showcase their collections. They also explored topics such as maze-solving algorithms programming, and the acquisition of Commodore's intellectual property rights. The conversation ended with discussions about personal projects, including building a Lego arcade machine and creating badges for Atari Age members.

Next steps

- Kevin: Test power supplies before VCF event to ensure proper voltage output for vintage computers, Bring prototype 1200 board, 1050 prototype drive, and other rare Atari boards to the upcoming VCF event
- Kevin: Set up the Atari display in the hall area across from the ST display at VCF
- Kevin: Update information plaques for the 1450 case that fits a 1200 motherboard
- Kevin: Handle any potential table fees for the VCF event if charged
- Lenore: Release PCB files online for others to print 1450 recreation boards
- Robbie: Bring Commodore and 800 XL computers to the VCF event
- Mariano: Start new job at Genentech's biotechnology division on the 21st, working with genetic algorithms and Python
- Mariano: Add the VCF show dates to calendar
- Team: Set up table display on Thursday evening for the upcoming VCF show and showcase Atari equipment at VCF event
- Team: Attend next week's meeting to discuss final preparations for the VCF show

Summary

Atari Hardware Updates and Projects

- The group discussed various personal updates and shared news about Atari hardware. Kevin showed off a new Atari 1450 XL Recreation Board package he received from Lenore, which includes a modem and add-on components. The board fits in a 1250 case and is still a work in progress, with some display issues to be resolved. The group also briefly discussed the challenges of recording the meetings.

Atari XL Case Restoration Discussion

- Kevin showed a collection of rare Atari 1200 and 1450 XL cases, including an early demo case with unique port configurations. The discussion revealed that these cases were likely used for photographs, with some requiring repair work due to misaligned screw holes. Bob confirmed that the chips were successfully copied from other Atari models, and the cases function with standard 1200 power supplies.

Custom-Built 1450 Computer Demonstrations

- Kevin showed Scott and Rod three custom-built 1450 computers, including one with working drives and a modified 1050 bezel, and another with a prototype 1450 board that fits a 1200 case. The third computer was a fully working 1450 XL with both drives operational. The group

discussed the challenges of fitting drives and bezels together, with Kevin explaining that he had to modify existing parts rather than using 3D printed replacements due to availability of 1050 cases from a local collector.

● VCF Event 1450 Computer Display

- The group discussed preparations for an upcoming VCF event in two weeks, where Kevin will showcase several 1450 cases, including one with drilled holes that Bob explained were from a previous owner's attempt to mount drives. Kevin confirmed he has extra 1450 boards and information plaques to explain the history of the computers, which he will display without modification to maintain their vintage appearance. The team agreed to leave the cases as-is, with Kevin noting there's no safe way to mount drives in the very early case without causing damage.

● Atari Vintage Computer Board Discussion

- Kevin presented several vintage computer boards, including a 1450XL board that its in a 1200XL case and features additional components like video and audio capabilities, as well as mod compatibility. The group discussed the technical specifications and features of the boards, with Scott inquiring about RAM and mod compatibility. They also touched on the need to test power supplies before use. Also the possibility of demonstrating a port of Doom to the Atari system. The conversation concluded with a lighthearted discussion about Google's Gemini chess program and its inability to play against a 2600 due to complexity.

● Vintage Modem Collection Showcase

- Kevin showed off his collection of vintage modems, including a Hayes Stack, a Chronograph, and a Transet1000 unit, which he had been assembling over the past 15 years. He explained that each modem requires its own power supply and described how these modems could be used with a modern interface board. Ron provided additional context about the transit unit's capabilities, including its role as a printer buffer and primitive email box, and mentioned its use with MCI codes and war dialing applications.

● Badges and VCF Event Plans

- Kevin showed off newly created badges featuring various numbers requested by Atari Age members, noting they were slightly thicker than the original metal versions but otherwise accurate in design. The group discussed their upcoming attendance at a VCF event. Robbie mentioned the VCF event to an Amiga enthusiast named Chris, who ran a BBS, while the group noted the significant presence of Amiga-related displays celebrating the platform's 40th anniversary.

● Commodore IP Acquisition and Revival

- The group discussed the acquisition of Commodore's intellectual property rights by a retro computer enthusiast from New England for approximately 8-9 million dollars. They reviewed details about a new Commodore 64 model being developed, which will feature FPGA-based hardware emulation, backward compatibility, and modern features like HDMI output and SD card support. The discussion concluded with comments about Atari's recent improvements in their product line and a lighthearted mention of potentially licensing Atari rights for future projects.

● AI-Generated Maze Solver Demo

- Mariano shared his project involving a maze solver implemented in Python, which uses DFS and BFS search algorithms. He demonstrated a web client generated by AI through the Clova AI platform, which provides functionality to load and solve mazes, as well as display the algorithm's working process. Mariano explained that he used AI to automatically generate the client code, including API calls, CSS, and button implementations, while he manually modernized the code to a newer JavaScript style.

Genentech, Legos, and Atari Memories

- The group discussed Mariano's new job at Genentech working with genetic algorithms and Python, Rod shared his progress on building a Lego arcade machine with his wife, inspired by the TV show Lego Masters. The group also discussed an upcoming computer history show in two weeks, where they plan to set up a table and display Atari-related items.

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