●Notes For SLCC Zoom Meeting 9-30-2025

●Hosted by Kevin

●In Attendance, Kevin, Robbie, Don, Bob, Scott, Harry, and Ron

●Meeting summary

●Quick recap

●The meeting began with technical discussions about video feeds and Atari hardware, including a detailed demonstration of a comprehensive test rig for Atari 8-bit computers and discussions about various hardware components and repairs. The group then explored new Atari products like the Game Station Go and shared experiences with vintage computer repairs and upgrades, including work on RAM expansions, ROM sockets, and video output modifications. The conversation concluded with discussions about space launches, computer hardware from the 1980s, and Atari trackballs, with participants sharing personal experiences and historical context throughout the meeting.

●Next steps

●Kevin to order more rubber feet for his Atari machines
●Robbie to bring his 386 computer to the meeting on Tuesday for Kevin to check
●Kevin to bring a screwdriver to Tuesday's meeting to open Robbie's 386 computer
●Harry to continue working on his 1200XL modifications including the Warp 32 and 1, RAM expansion, and SIO 5-volt mod
●Kevin to check the rest of the capacitors in the machine he repaired at the library

●Summary

● Technical Troubles and Life Updates
They talked about the weather and Kevin's new car, which had scratches on the windows. Robbie shared his experience setting up his 800XL Atari console, which had some issues with cartridges and a joystick. Scott joined the call from Texas, where he recently finished wiring an exhaust fan in his loft. The group briefly discussed Scott's move from Fremont to Texas, and Harry inquired about his experience with the change.

● Atari 8-bit Test Rig Demonstration

●Kevin demonstrated a detailed test rig for Atari 8-bit computers, which includes a CPS test rig and a PBI test rig, capable of comprehensive testing of machines including the 800, 800XL, 130XE, and 1400XL. The device can test various components such as baud rates, voltages, RAM, and speaker

functionality, with an LED display providing error codes and test results. Harry and Scott discussed the benefits of the test rig compared to other testing solutions, noting its extensive capabilities and potential for further community development. Kevin also mentioned that Lenore has been making progress on audio and MIDI functionality for the 1250XL board.

● Atari Hardware Repair Discussion

●The group discussed Atari hardware, particularly focusing on the scarcity and repair of Pokey chips, with Harry sharing his experience of replacing a faulty chip and Kevin noting that genuine Pokey chips are now rare and often sourced from arcade machines or 7800/5200 carts. The conversation then shifted to Atari 1200XL keyboards, with Kevin and others sharing repair techniques for the Mylar keyboard material, including Bob offering to share some Mylar samples with the group. The discussion concluded with members reflecting on their personal experiences with different Atari models, with Scott and Kevin recalling their initial machines and upgrade paths.

● Atari Game Station Go Discussion

●The group discussed the new Atari Game Station Go, a portable device similar to a Nintendo Switch that includes a trackball, spinner, keypad, and the ability to connect external controllers and a keyboard. Don mentioned that his Atari joysticks were still pending shipment and might arrive by Christmas. Scott shared his experience with a budget gaming device that included a TV cable and separate controller for two-player games. The conversation concluded with a detailed comparison of different feet for gaming devices, with Kevin explaining the differences in design and functionality between various models.

● Vintage Computer Repair Progress Update

●Kevin shared his progress on repairing several vintage computers, including a 16K cartridge and a 60K RAM card, which he successfully fixed by redrawing solder connections. He also used a portable USB soldering iron for the first time and replaced capacitors in a library machine that had a strong odor. Scott suggested checking the rest of the capacitors in the library machine for any signs of damage. Harry discussed replacing ROM sockets in a 1200XL with 28-pin versions and testing the machine, which now works properly.

● Atari 1200XL Hardware Upgrades

●Harry discussed his recent hardware upgrades to his Atari 1200XL, including installing a 512K RAM expansion, a 5-volt SIO MOD for FujiNet, and an HDMI output using Lumicode and an RGB to HDMI converter. He noted challenges with the RF jack modification due to its inverted mounting on the 1200XL, opting for a temporary solution using a 5200 bracket. Kevin suggested an easy fix for improving the 1200XL's video output by modifying resistors to enable S-video functionality, which Harry agreed to explore. The group also discussed the challenges of S-video quality on various displays, with Harry preferring HDMI for its convenience and image quality.

● Ron's Network Upgrade Considerations

●The group discussed Ron's recent busy week, including helping with an earthquake-affected office in the Philippines. Ron shared his plans to upgrade his home network, considering a switch from AT&T Fiber to UniFi equipment, weighing the costs and benefits of copper vs. fiber connections for his backbone and devices. Harry and Ron discussed the advantages of fiber for

distance and potential future upgrades, while Ron noted that copper might suffice for his current needs.

● Starship Launch and TRS-80 Discussion

● The group discussed the upcoming Starship launch scheduled for October 13th, with Scott explaining that it will use a reused booster with 24 of 33 engines being reused, and will be the last V2 version before the larger V3 version launches next year. They also discussed a recent SpaceX video highlighting their launch, including details about the booster landing in the ocean and the new hot separation process. The conversation then shifted to a discussion about the TRS-80 computer, with Kevin sharing his enjoyment of the September edition of Compute Gazette which featured extensive coverage of TRS-80 models and related topics.

● 1980s Computer Hardware Nostalgia

● The group discussed various computer hardware from the 1980s, including Atari 800s, 1050 drives, and modems. Scott shared his experience with Wang computers and Atari systems from high school. The conversation included details about different versions of 1050 drives and their power boards. The discussion concluded with memories of computer stores like Weird Stuff Warehouse and the purchase of various computer accessories.

● Atari Trackball Variations Discussion

● The group discussed various versions of Atari trackballs, particularly focusing on the CX-22 and CX-80 models. They examined differences between early and later versions, including serial numbers, components, and manufacturing locations. Harry shared that his CX-22 lacks the joystick switch, making it suitable only for 2600 games. The conversation also touched on the history of left-handedness and writing directions across different cultures. The conversation ended with plans to meet again in the library next week.

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