

Notes For SLCC In-Person and Zoom Meeting June 2nd, 2026

Hosted by Kevin

In Attendance at The San Leandro Library, Kevin, Robbie, and Harry

In Attendance For The Zoom Meeting, Kevin, Robbie, Harry, Ron, Bob, Scott, Don and Richard Diaz

Quick recap

This was a casual computer and gaming club meeting where participants discussed various topics including vintage computer hardware, gaming systems, and personal updates. The main technical discussion centered around an Atari 800XL system with custom firmware from Atari Age that enables running modern emulators and ROMs on the classic hardware. Participants shared updates about their computer collections, with one member showing an RM800XL FPGA-based remake of the Atari 800XL that includes modern ports and features. The group also discussed internet connectivity issues, beekeeping experiences, and recent space news including the Blue Origin rocket explosion and SpaceX developments. Several members shared personal updates about voting in recent elections and travel plans, while the meeting experienced technical difficulties when the library's internet connection appeared to fail, causing the host to leave the meeting early.

Next steps

Bob

- Look for Atari 1200XL computer and, if found, bring it to the next meeting for inspection/repair.
- Keep an eye out for unique Atari computers or related items while traveling in Germany and Poland, and consider bringing back interesting finds for the group.

Kevin

- Provide threads or information from AtariAge about the custom firmware for the GameStation Go to interested members.

Richard

- Share more information or updates about the RM800XL/Atari 800XL remake project as it becomes available.

Scott

- Monitor bee hives for aggressive behavior and consider re-queening if one hive remains overly aggressive.

Summary

Personal and Technical Discussion Meeting

The participants discussed various personal topics including computer equipment, technical issues, and family matters. The conversation concluded with discussions about computer purchases, including Dell and HP systems.

Gaming and Voting Discussion

The group discussed voting experiences, with Ron and Scott both confirming they had voted recently using different methods. The conversation then shifted to gaming, where they explored old Atari games including Caverns of Mars and discussed the differences between vertical and horizontal scrolling games. The discussion included technical details about running games on an A8 Pico emulator and the process of curating ROMs to fit on the device.

GameStation Pro Custom Firmware Demo

Harry demonstrated a GameStation Go device with custom firmware from Atari Age that improves the original firmware by fixing issues like resolution problems and enabling features like paddle controls. The custom firmware includes a full version of RetroArch with better support for various game systems including 7800, STE, and Neo Geo Pocket Color. The device features a remote control that works with the portable system and can be connected to a TV for a more immersive gaming experience.

Atari 800XL FPGA Remake Discussion

Harry explained their company's work with medical device manufacturers, particularly focusing on digital certificates that authenticate devices to hospital networks and ensure HIPAA compliance. Richard shared information about the RM800XL, a new FPGA-based Atari 800XL remake that includes modern ports like USB and HDMI while maintaining the original design, though it remains unclear if Atari is officially involved. The group discussed the project's development progress and case design, with Kevin noting that the 800XL was the most popular model to recreate due to its cartridge compatibility.

Bob's Germany Trip Planning Discussion

The team discussed Bob's upcoming trip to Germany and Poland, where he will visit Atari offices. They joked about welcoming him at the airport and suggested he look for vintage Atari computers at thrift shops during his visit. The conversation then shifted to technical issues with a new Comcast modem and internet speed discussions, where Richard shared details about his 5 gig fiber connection and Ron mentioned bypassing AT&T equipment with a transceiver.

Personal Updates and Beekeeping Discussion

The group discussed various personal topics while waiting for the meeting to start. Ron shared his positive experience with a router and mentioned working with large log files at home. Richard talked about replacing batteries in NES cartridges and restoring saved games. Scott provided an update on his beekeeping activities,

sharing photos of his hives and discussing issues with bees bearding outside due to hot weather. He also mentioned not having a significant honey harvest yet but hoping for one in the fall, and noted his increasing allergy sensitivity to bee stings.

Beekeeping and Space Discussion

The group discussed beekeeping techniques, where Scott explained the process of introducing a new queen by killing the old one and allowing the bees to acclimate to the new queen over several days. They then talked about recent space news, including a SpaceX launch and a Blue Origin rocket explosion that may have damaged their launch pad, potentially delaying future missions. The conversation concluded with a discussion about various old space-themed TV shows and movies, including Space Angel, UFO, and Space 1999, and how special effects were created in those productions.