

Notes for SLCC-Atari Zoom Meeting 6/23/26

Hosted by Kevin

In Attendance, Kevin, Robbie, Don, Ron, Scott, Richard Diaz, Bob, and Harry

[Review action items](#)

Meeting summary

Quick recap

The meeting was a casual gathering of Atari and computer enthusiasts where participants discussed various topics including library meeting changes, vintage technology finds, and upcoming events. Robbie announced that the library meeting scheduled for July 7th would likely be postponed due to new application requirements and a \$150 deposit fee, and he would send updated information via email. Kevin shared his recent acquisition of various vintage chips and components including Atari write cartridges, Apple II ROMs, and Pentium processors, along with his challenges in straightening bent pins on these historical chips. The group discussed plans for attending VCF West in August, with Kevin planning to bring 1450XL and 1400 computers and potentially coordinating with other Bay Area collectors, while Harry offered to help with setup and bring a hand truck from work. Harry also shared his experience setting up a MiSTerCade system with arcade cabinets, explaining how it allows multiple cabinets to play the same game through HDMI and JAMA connections. The conversation included discussions about various vintage technology topics including remote controls, Commodore flip phones, and the recent sale of Green Academy's business to someone on the East Coast.

Next steps

Harry

- [Take a picture of the collapsible hand truck from work and send it to Kevin to see if it will work for the event.](#)
- [Bring the collapsible hand truck from work to BCF West to help with setup.](#)

Kevin

- [Sign up for a table \(or two\) for the group at the VCF West event on August 1st and 2nd.](#)

- [Plan to bring minimal equipment to VCF West, focusing on 1450XLs and 1400s.](#)
- [Look into getting a better hand truck for transporting equipment to events.](#)
- [Test the Atari "write cartridge" with the FujiNET as a printer when the Atari 800 is set up.](#)

Robbie

- [Send an email to the group with details about the library application process and new rules, including the \\$150 deposit requirement.](#)
- [Send out the usual Sunday notice, but inform the group not to count on an in-person meeting on the 7th.](#)
- [Keep the group posted on the status of the library meeting room situation.](#)

Summary

Informal Tech and Weather Discussion

The group had an informal conversation about weather in Florida and shared experiences about lost TV remotes and vintage television technology, including discussions about clicker remotes and early audio-based remote controls from the 1960s and 1970s. Don mentioned receiving a "bazinga button" as a birthday gift from his daughter.

Library Meeting Rules Update

Robbie informed the group that the library rules have changed, requiring a \$150 damage deposit and potentially affecting their ability to meet in person on the 7th. He decided to send out a notice on Sunday but indicated an in-person meeting might not be possible. The discussion then shifted to a brief conversation about old TV remotes and screen sharing technical difficulties.

Historical TV Remote Development

Scott presented information about the Flashmatic, the first wireless TV remote developed in 1950, which used a flashlight to control TV functions through photocell chambers in the corners of the TV. The group discussed the historical development of TV remotes, with Scott noting that ultrasonic remote controls became dominant for the next 25 years after the Flashmatic's introduction. The conversation then shifted to personal updates, with Ron mentioning his work in restructuring and moving to a new

AI-focused group, while the group briefly discussed employment compensation and tax policies.

Commodore Flip Phone Discussion

The group discussed a new Commodore-branded flip phone that was recently announced, with participants questioning its high price point of around \$550 and limited features. They compared it to other simple phones like Microsoft's Windows Mobile devices from around 2010-2015, noting that while the Commodore phone offers basic functionality like blocking social media and having a removable battery, its price and marketing approach were seen as questionable. The conversation ended with comparisons to other failed attempts at creating simple phones in the past decade.

BlackBerry and European Travel Discussion

The group discussed the history of BlackBerry phones, including how they rose and fell due to competition from Apple's iPhone. Bob shared details about his recent trip to Poland and Germany with family, where they visited tourist attractions and used trains for transportation. The conversation also touched on the Microsoft Kin phone and Bob's experience with European transportation, including nine-hour flights and train travel.

Atari Equipment Discussion Meeting

The group discussed Atari equipment, with Kevin showing an Atari 800XE and mentioning receiving a collection of chips and cartridges from a friend. Kevin identified a rare "R cart" cartridge for the Atari 800, explaining that it's one of only 13 known write cartridges and functions as an EPROM that redirects all keyboard input to a printer. The discussion included speculation about the purpose of the R cart, with Scott suggesting it might function like a teletype.

Atari 800 Keylogger Cartridges

Kevin discussed finding three Atari 800 cartridges with different numbers (44-80, 24-80, and 67-80) that appear to be keyloggers, though he hasn't tested them yet. He noted that the code is only about 30 lines long but occupies an entire 8K slot, suggesting it might have a specific purpose beyond general use. Kevin plans to test the cartridges by connecting them to his 800 with Basic and using FujiNET as a printer to see how they function.

Old Computer Chips Discussion

Kevin showed and discussed various old computer chips including Apple II ROM sets and Pentium processors, with particular focus on a large Pentium chip that had a known coprocessor bug from the early 90s. The group discussed challenges with pin straightening for these older chips, with Scott suggesting a 3D-printed socket solution as an alternative to manual pin straightening. Kevin mentioned having some motherboard boards to work with and indicated plans to keep certain chips, including a Pentium with MMX technology.

Computer Hardware Upgrade Techniques

Kevin discussed upgrading a 486 board to Pentium and shared techniques for straightening pins on old chips, including using tools like screwdrivers, box cutters, and specialized pin straighteners. The group also examined various computer components and cartridges, with Harry showing an Atari 90-day limited warranty manual and discussing the preservation of valuable cartridges in protective cases.

Brewing Academy Sale and Event

The group discussed the recent sale of Brewing Academy to a buyer on the East Coast, with the previous owner retiring after 25 years in business. Kevin expressed interest in potentially purchasing the remaining inventory and modernizing the business. The conversation then shifted to planning for an upcoming VCF West event in August, where Kevin proposed showcasing rare 1450XL and 1400 computers with help from other Bay Area collectors to make setup and teardown easier than the previous year.

Upcoming Show Planning Discussion

The group discussed plans for an upcoming show, clarifying that it will run from August 1st to August 2nd (Saturday and Sunday), with load-in on Thursday. Kevin and Richard agreed to bring limited equipment compared to last year, and Harry confirmed he would help with the event. Bob expressed interest in attending and bringing his 1200XL equipment, with the group joking about creating a "1200 wall" display. Ron mentioned potential challenges with work commitments in August affecting his ability to help with consignment setup.

Arcade Setup and Event Planning

Kevin discussed making a reservation for a table and noted that while the venue charges for tables, they haven't collected in 15 years. The group discussed logistics including electrical requirements and Harry offered to bring a four-wheeled hand truck from work to help with setup. Harry then shared his experience setting up a MiSTercade system with arcade cabinets, explaining how it allows multiple cabinets to play the same game through HDMI and USB connections, though all cabinets must play the same game. The group also discussed upcoming events including California Extreme in August where they could source parts for arcade machines.