

Notes for SLCC-Atari Zoom Meeting 7/21/26

Hosted by Kevin

In Attendance, Kevin, Robbie, Rod, John Z., Don, Richard Diaz, Bob, Chris, Ron, Harry, Scott, Mariano, Garrett, and Michael S.

[Review action items](#)

Meeting summary

Quick recap

The meeting was a casual gathering of Atari and vintage computer enthusiasts, primarily focused on preparations for the upcoming Vintage Computer Festival (VCF) West. Kevin discussed the logistics of their exhibit, which will prominently feature Atari 1400 and 1450 XL computers, and shared updates on his 3D-printed case project for a 1450. New member John Zielke introduced himself and shared his newsletter and programming projects. The group also discussed potential items to display, such as prototypes and rare hardware, and coordinated who would bring additional equipment like monitors and power supplies. Other topics included personal collections, recent acquisitions, and experiences with vintage computing events. The meeting was attended by a large group, including Rod from Chile, Garrett, Mariano, Chris, Bob Woolley, and others, who all shared updates and engaged in nostalgic discussions about Atari systems and the community.

Next steps

Garrett

- [Bring his 1400XL and set it up with a text-to-speech demo at the VCF exhibit on Saturday.](#)

Harry

- [Arrange for 3D printing and shipping of three Meanwell power supply enclosures to Kevin.](#)

John

- [Consider bringing a Raspberry Pi Pico and indoor/outdoor sensors for Atari projects \(future, not immediate action\).](#)

Kevin

- [Find out the exact time the VCF exhibit hall opens for setup on Friday and communicate it to the group.](#)
- [Bring two FujiNets to the VCF exhibit for use with the 1400/1450 machines.](#)
- [Bring acrylic stands and tent signs from last year for the VCF exhibit.](#)
- [Leave some computers \(e.g., 1400s\) unscrewed at the VCF exhibit so attendees can look inside.](#)
- [Test the 3D-printed Meanwell power supply enclosures once received and provide feedback.](#)

Mariano

- [Bring joysticks \(that can be broken\) and possibly an SIO2SD to the VCF exhibit.](#)

Richard

- [Bring a 3-inch floppy drive \(Amdek\) to the VCF exhibit.](#)

Robbie

- [Bring a Commodore monitor to the VCF exhibit.](#)

Rod

- [Inform the group if there is an Atari show in Chile in August.](#)

Bob

- [Locate and send any available Pokey-to-keyboard adapters to Garrett for the VCF exhibit.](#)

Chris

- [Print a banner for the VCF exhibit \(overhead style\) and prototype it before the show.](#)
- [Bring the series of Sparrow prototypes \(including board variants and PCB rack\) to the VCF exhibit for display/rotation.](#)

- [Offer laser cutting services if needed for VCF exhibit materials.](#)

Summary

Meeting Introduction and Travel Plans

The meeting began with Kevin discussing a nearby fire that was approximately 3 miles away from him, which had spread to a potentially damaging location. Participants introduced themselves, with John Zielke joining the meeting and Rod connecting from Chile. The group discussed travel plans, with John and Rod planning to attend in person, while Richard and Chris were driving long distances to attend.

Atari Project Updates Meeting

The meeting served as a catch-up session where participants shared updates on their recent activities. John discussed his newsletter project, covering topics from hardware to software, and his work on a weather station using Atari and Raspberry Pi components. Rod shared his location in Chile and mentioned upcoming winter activities, including skiing, while noting his limited involvement in local Atari events this year. The group expressed enthusiasm about an upcoming VCF event where four 1400 XL systems would be present.

3D Printed Computer Case Presentation

Kevin presented a 3D printed case for a computer, which he had assembled and fitted with disk drives. The case was printed using FDM (fusion deposition method) on a home printer and required reinforcement in several places to ensure stability. While the overall fit was good, Kevin identified some issues with the placement of the drives that needed adjustment. The team expressed admiration for the quality of the print and construction.

Exhibit Setup Planning Discussion

The group discussed their exhibit setup for an upcoming event, where they will have two tables placed prominently in the main hall near the entrance. Kevin confirmed they will have four 1400s and four 1450s machines on display, though he noted space constraints might make it difficult to expand further. The discussion included conversation about previous large exhibits, with conflicting information about

whether large displays would be allowed this year, as Eric seemed less involved while Corey was reportedly interested in having them return for another major display.

Machine Display Event Planning

The group discussed plans for displaying various machines at an event, with Kevin confirming that multiple 1400 machines could be swapped out and arranged differently without issues. Mariano proposed showing off his dyno game and tackle game, while also offering to bring additional equipment like joysticks, though the group clarified they wouldn't be playing games that could damage the equipment. Chris mentioned having a Chalco 600XL with a fake PCB and an AML chip, though the latter would be difficult to demonstrate without a microscope. Kevin confirmed he would bring a small 4-foot table for the display.

3D Printing Enclosure Project Discussion

Kevin discussed the need for power supplies and grommets for additional 1400 units, and Harry offered to have his colleagues 3D print three Meanwell enclosures to help with the project. Chris also offered to print the enclosures if needed, and the group discussed matching a specific brown color for the enclosures. The conversation included some lighthearted discussion about 3D printing and bamboo printers, with Chris mentioning his work on 3D modeling the Atari Force characters.

Computer Exhibit Preparation Planning

The group discussed preparations for an upcoming computer exhibit, including plans for demonstrating Commodore 64 and Amiga systems. Garrett confirmed he would bring his 1400XL with text-to-speech capabilities, while Bob agreed to provide a Pokey-to-keyboard adapter if he could locate it. Chris mentioned having Sparrow prototypes available for display, and Kevin confirmed that computers would be taken home overnight while other equipment could remain at the venue. The discussion concluded with arrangements for Harry and Mariano to help with setup on Friday evening, with Kevin planning to confirm the exact timing for when they could access the venue.

Event Logistics Planning Meeting

The group discussed logistics for an upcoming event, with Kevin planning to determine the opening time and coordinate setup activities. Harry proposed raffling off an A8 Pico Atari cartridge at the show, but Kevin indicated this might not be

allowed due to potential legal complications, suggesting they save it for their regular first Tuesday library raffle instead. The discussion also covered space constraints for banners and signage at their vendor table, with Kevin noting they would need to be mindful of neighboring vendors due to the square layout.

Event Display Setup Planning

The team discussed options for displaying information about the 1450 XLD and Atari at their event. Chris suggested using two tripods with a bar to hang a banner overhead, which would require prototyping before implementation. The group decided to create a prototype with the text "1450 XLD, Atari" and potentially an image of a 1450 from a catalog. They also discussed space constraints for setting up computers at the event, considering options like using skyscrapers or towers to save space.

Vintage Computer Festival Planning

The group discussed plans for setting up computer equipment at an event, including stacking cubes and connecting various devices like FujiNets and 3-inch drives. They confirmed that Randy Kindig would be attending Vintage Computer Festival West, while noting that other collectors like Adrian Black and Dave Murray typically attend different events. The discussion included conversations about various YouTubers and their approaches to reviewing vintage computers, with some noting that these reviewers often struggle with basic troubleshooting despite their expertise in other systems.

Atari Equipment Discovery Discussion

The group discussed finding rare Atari equipment at garage sales and eRecyclers, with Garrett sharing his discovery of a 1400XL at a San Jose garage sale from a former Atari collector. They also discussed various prototype and pilot units, including a 1200XL with a low serial number that Chris identified as a pilot unit. The conversation concluded with a discussion about FPGA Pokey chips and their availability, comparing them to the situation with SID chips on the C64.

VCF West Preparation Planning

The group discussed preparations for VCF West, with Kevin planning to use 5x7 acrylic signs that can be moved away to allow people to look inside computer cases. Chris offered laser cutting services for Perspex and other materials, though Kevin

indicated he didn't currently need these services. The conversation included personal discussions about Atari collections, with John sharing details about his extensive Atari setup in North Carolina and Chris mentioning his collection including various 130XE and 65XE variants.

Testing Counters and Show Planning

The group discussed testing counters for different models including the 600 and 800 XL systems, with Kevin explaining that the 1400 series has different PBI signals compared to the 800/600 models. The conversation then shifted to plans for an upcoming show on Saturday, with Richard confirming his attendance. The conversation ended with informal discussions about books, movies, and the Vintage Computer Festival, including stories about equipment displays at previous events.