

Notes for SLCC-Atari Zoom Meeting 7/28/26

Hosted by Kevin

In Attendance, Kevin, Robbie, Don, Mariano, Richard Diaz, Richard Chennault, John Buell, John Zielke, Ron, and Rod

[Review action items](#)

Meeting summary

Quick recap

The meeting focused on preparations for the upcoming Vintage Computer West show, where Kevin's group will have a booth at table 71 near the entrance. The discussion covered technical setup details including power supplies, monitors, and keyboard requirements for their 8-bit computer demonstrations, with particular attention to PS2 keyboard compatibility for connecting to 8-bit computers. Participants shared experiences with Atari ST systems and monitor compatibility issues, discussing various options from SCART converters to VGA adapters for modern display connections. The group also discussed logistics for the show including setup times, parking, and concerns about air conditioning in the venue due to expected high temperatures. Several members planned to attend both days of the show, with some helping with setup on Friday and others joining on Saturday, and they confirmed that demo games and additional monitors would be brought for the demonstrations.

Next steps

Kevin

- [Bring extra 1400 keyboards to the event to potentially swap out a non-working keyboard.](#)
- [Bring the business cards and the pamphlet about John Zielke's website/newsletter to the event table.](#)
- [Bring the FujiNet devices and the Chromebook/laptop for use at the event.](#)
- [Bring surge protectors and power supplies for the event setup.](#)
- [Check the event map and layout to confirm the SLCC table location \(Exhibit 71\) and consider rearranging tables for more space.](#)
- [Mention the potential air conditioning issue to the event organizers on Friday.](#)

- [Take pictures and videos at the event for the website.](#)
- [Post on Atari forums and Facebook groups to promote the event and attract more attendees.](#)

Robbie

- [Bring the PS2 keyboard to the event for possible use with the 8-bit computer setup.](#)
- [Bring drinks and food to the event.](#)
- [Ask about postponing the in-person meeting scheduled for next Tuesday to the following week.](#)

Mariano

- [Bring the two LCD monitors \(15-inch and TV\) to the event for use.](#)
- [Bring the "dino game" and "taco game" on Lotharek to demo at the booth.](#)
- [Bring drinks and food in a cooler to the event.](#)

Summary

Event Setup Preparations Discussion

The group discussed preparations for an event where 50 people are expected to attend. Kevin confirmed he has been setting up equipment including power supplies, computers, cartridges, and drives. The main discussion centered around bringing a PS2 keyboard for Garrett's computer setup, which needs to be connected through a trans key to an 8-bit computer board. Kevin explained that Garrett wants to protect his computer with a clear box and external keyboard setup to prevent damage from hands or drinks.

Global Weather Conditions Update

The group discussed weather conditions in different locations, with Rod sharing that while it's raining in the city, there's snow on mountains above 2,000 meters in Chile, though access to ski centers is currently challenging due to traffic issues. Robbie mentioned skiing in Kirkwood after an avalanche in Tahoe, noting that safety measures were in place with controlled snow explosions. Don reported hot weather in Florida, reaching 101 degrees, though he expected temperatures to drop with upcoming rain. Mariano shared a humorous anecdote about visiting a Smart Recycle Center with his wife to dispose of a door.

Personal Travel and Logistics Discussion

The group discussed personal topics including Mariano's experience with taking work materials home and Richard Diaz's situation about his wife potentially joining him on a trip to Alameda, which would have limited his ability to transport items. Rod mentioned considering flying to the meeting next year instead of driving, and Mariano offered him accommodation. The conversation ended with a brief mention of John, who was mentioned to be back east.

Event Preparation and Logistics

The group discussed preparations for an upcoming event, including newsletter distribution and business card production. Kevin showed new business cards and pamphlets he created, which received positive feedback from the group. They also discussed event logistics, with Kevin confirming their table location at the event and addressing questions about the event map placement.

VCF West Exhibit Planning

The team discussed the location and setup of their exhibit at VCF West, confirming they are at table 71 near the front entrance. They reviewed the exhibit layout map and noted they would be positioned close to IBM and other Atari-related vendors including ST Music Production and TT Design. Kevin mentioned plans to slide tables for better placement and discussed bringing a retro modem and new power supplies for the 1400 and 1450 systems, which require 12 volts.

1400 Computer Building Discussion

John Zielke discussed building a 1400 computer, with Kevin providing information about the costs and components needed. Kevin explained that building a 1400 would require purchasing boards in lots of 5, along with various components, with an initial investment of around \$200 that could be partially recovered by reselling extra boards. They also discussed the option of using a 1250XL board, which can be installed in a 1200 case without modifications, as an alternative approach.

Atari ST Learning Resources Discussion

John Zielke expressed interest in learning more about the Atari ST and discussed his limited experience with it, noting a lack of beginner-friendly resources. Kevin recommended Atari-forum.com as the best place to find ST-related information and

offered to share links to beginner-friendly ST content and videos. The group discussed the advantages of STs over 8-bit systems, including better processing power and software capabilities, though Rod admitted uncertainty about what to do with an ST despite its potential.

Atari ST Monitor Compatibility Discussion

The group discussed various aspects of Atari ST computers, including monitor compatibility and display options. Kevin shared his experience with testing drives and mentioned having a STF system, while Richard Chennault referenced his Atari TT system. The discussion covered monitor options for ST systems, with participants sharing experiences about SCART converters, HDMI outputs, and the challenges of finding compatible monitors, particularly in the US market. The conversation also touched on the size and weight of CRT monitors as well as alternative solutions like the side cart for ST systems.

Wi-Fi Hard Drive Device Discussion

Kevin discussed a Wi-Fi hard drive device called the "side cart" that works with all STs and goes into the cartridge port without requiring soldering. John Buell returned to the meeting after being absent due to family health issues and mentioned he had to box up his retro computing equipment including a COCO and TI-99 due to space constraints. John Buell indicated he likely won't be attending upcoming events like VCF Midwest due to the high table costs and current family circumstances.

Atari Game Exhibit Planning Meeting

Mariano confirmed he will exhibit his dino and taco games in the booth using his Lotharek equipment, which Kevin verified would work with the Atari computers. Kevin plans to arrive at 5 PM on Friday for setup and will bring only testing computers rather than all valuable equipment, while Ronald offered to help with setup either on Friday or Sunday if needed. The group discussed logistics around badge pickup and parking arrangements for the event.

Computer Show Preparation Planning

The group discussed preparations for an upcoming computer show where Kevin will be setting up equipment. Kevin confirmed he would arrive at 10 AM both days and requested additional monitors from Mariano, who agreed to bring two LCD monitors. The team discussed potential challenges including poor air conditioning in the venue.

due to expected high temperatures and concerns about Wi-Fi connectivity. Kevin mentioned he would bring FujiNet equipment and planned to take photos and videos at the event to share on their website. The conversation ended with a request to postpone next Tuesday's in-person meeting to the following week due to expected fatigue from the show.