

Notes for SLCC-Atari Zoom Meeting 8/4/2026

Hosted by Kevin

In Attendance, Kevin, Robbie, Bob, Mariano, Don, Harry, Richard Diaz, John Zielke, and Chris

Meeting summary

Quick recap

The meeting was a post-Vintage Computer Festival (VCF) discussion where participants shared experiences from the recent show and discussed various computer-related topics. Kevin reported on the successful VCF event, including meeting with industry figures like Al Alcorn and Leonard Tramiel, and showed videos and photos of their Atari computer display. The group discussed various computer hardware including 1450XLD drives, FujiNet projects, and home automation possibilities using Raspberry Pi devices. Chris shared details about his new TI-99 computer setup with various modifications including VGA output and a PPEB expansion card. The conversation also covered printer experiences from the 1980s, including stories about Epson printers and dot matrix devices, as well as discussions about Page 6 magazine and its content.

Next steps

John

- [Pick up ST books and magazines at the upcoming meetup to get more into Atari ST.](#)
- [Consider using Turbo BASIC or other enhanced BASICs for future projects.](#)
- [Experiment with Raspberry Pi Pico and home automation integration with Atari/FujiNet.](#)
- [Obtain a network solution \(e.g., NetUSB or side cartridge\) for the Atari 8-bit setup.](#)

Kevin

- [Add Glenn Bruner \(AtariFan49\) to the invite list for next week's meeting.](#)

Robbie

- [Forward the Tech Jesse interview video link to Richard.](#)

Chris

- [Send the email address of the Atari 1450XLD owner to Kevin.](#)

Collaboration

- [All participants: Think about and propose ideas for a new club project.](#)

Summary

VCF Event Experience Discussion

The group discussed their recent experience at a VCF event, with Mariano mentioning he received a T-shirt and Kevin sharing that he rebranded Commodore monitors to Atari for the event. The participants also discussed the quality of items available at a recent consignment event, with most agreeing that prices were too high and not worth purchasing.

Event Reporting and Feedback Discussion

Kevin reported distributing flyers successfully and attending a show where he met with several people including Al Alcorn and Leonard Tramiel. He criticized the recent Woz interview recording quality, noting it was poorly done with an iPhone setup rather than professional equipment. The group discussed Kevin's brief appearance in Tech Jesse's video and his display of 90s Dell computers at the event.

Atari Computer Show Discussion

The group discussed a recent show where Kevin met someone with an Atari 1450XLD computer. Kevin shared a video from the show, and the group discussed the positive response and interest from attendees who were unfamiliar with Atari's computer products.

Event Engagement and Atari Collecting

The group reviewed videos of the event and the conversation then shifted to collecting Atari ST materials, with Kevin sharing insights about Start Magazine and its disc versions, while John mentioned plans to attend meetups and purchase ST-related magazines and books.

Article Reprints and Club Updates

The group discussed reprinting articles from older publications, with Bob confirming that he would allow reprints of his articles from 8-bit computing magazines. Robbie shared an email from Glenn Bruner who expressed interest in joining the club, and Kevin agreed to add him to the invite list for next week's meeting. The conversation also included sharing photos from a recent event and discussing a fellow attendee, Leonard Tramiel, who enjoyed attending the VCF festival.

Atari DOS Systems Discussion

The group discussed various DOS systems for Atari computers, with Kevin explaining that DOS 3 was specifically designed to work with the 1450 XLD and included instructions unique to that drive. Chris shared memories of installing a US doubler and the concerns about warranty implications due to drive reliability issues during that era. The discussion also covered regional differences in Atari products, with Chris noting that 1200 drives were not available in the UK market.

Vintage Computer Equipment Discussion

The group discussed vintage computer equipment, particularly focusing on 810 and 1050 disk drives. John shared his experience with a damaged 1050 drive that his neighbor had repaired by placing a piece of wood over it. Kevin described finding a similar 810 drive in a homemade wooden box created by a child, which led to a discussion about recasing drives and the business practices of electronics retailers like Brad's store. The conversation concluded with a story about Steve and ReFalcon, where he had issues with parts orders and learned about restrictions on reselling.

Business Practices and Show Updates

The group discussed Brad Okuda's website and business practices, with Kevin sharing a story about someone who built a relationship with Brad by first sending complimentary emails before making business requests. The conversation also covered participation awards at a show, with Kevin noting they had won for the first three years but stopped winning despite improving their displays.

Atari and TI Computing Discussion

John presented his work on a FujiNet program that displays network information like SSID, IP address, and gateway details, but ran into memory issues and plans to rewrite it using Atari Basic. The group discussed various printer experiences from their early computing days, with several members sharing stories about using Epson and other printers with their Atari systems. Harry demonstrated his newly acquired TI-99/4A system with various modern upgrades including VGA, Wi-Fi, and an extensive PPEB expansion card that emulates multiple components. The conversation ended with discussions about TI-99 software development and the computer's community of hobbyists.