

Notes for SLCC-Atari IN-PERSON & Zoom Meeting 8/11/26

Hosted by Kevin

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

In Attendance For The Zoom Meeting, Scott, Glenn, Rod, Don, John, and Bob

[Review action items](#)

Meeting summary

Quick recap

The meeting was a casual gathering of Atari enthusiasts who discussed recent experiences at the VCF West event, shared updates on their vintage computing projects, and exchanged advice on hardware and software tools. Kevin, Glenn, Scott, Rod, John, Don, and Bob talked about their experiences with FujiNet, SIO2PC, and other interfaces for archiving and using Atari 8-bit systems, with a focus on preserving floppy disks and using modern accessories. They shared stories about meeting notable figures like Leonard Tramiel, Al Alcorn, and David Crane at VCF West, and discussed interesting exhibits such as the Atari Cosmos holograms and the Reef Falcon 030 project. The group also discussed challenges with soldering, sourcing rare chips, and troubleshooting prototype hardware like the Colette board. Other topics included buying and selling vintage items, the quality of event consignment areas, and personal projects like model train simulations and solar-powered setups for vintage hardware. The conversation ended with members wrapping up their discussions and preparing to leave the library space.

Next steps

Glenn

- [Investigate FujiNet as an alternative to SIO2PC for archiving floppy disks, based on the group's recommendation.https://tasks.zoom.us?meetingId=GH18nR2cQlyKZux6%2BbGSvg%3D%3D&stepId=f079377c-95f7-11f1-8ae3-3e666fd252ce](https://tasks.zoom.us?meetingId=GH18nR2cQlyKZux6%2BbGSvg%3D%3D&stepId=f079377c-95f7-11f1-8ae3-3e666fd252ce)
- [Send the video of the Atari hologram from VCF West to the group via the email list.https://tasks.zoom.us?meetingId=GH18nR2cQlyKZux6%2BbGSvg%3D%3D&stepId=f0793a6d-95f7-11f1-8071-3e666fd252ce](https://tasks.zoom.us?meetingId=GH18nR2cQlyKZux6%2BbGSvg%3D%3D&stepId=f0793a6d-95f7-11f1-8071-3e666fd252ce)

- [Continue working on troubleshooting and documenting the Atari Colette prototype board.](https://tasks.zoom.us?meetingId=GH18nR2cQlyKZux6%2BbGSvg%3D%3D&stepId=f0793d14-95f7-11f1-9dc3-3e666fd252ce)<https://tasks.zoom.us?meetingId=GH18nR2cQlyKZux6%2BbGSvg%3D%3D&stepId=f0793d14-95f7-11f1-9dc3-3e666fd252ce>

Kevin

- [Write a paragraph of suggestions for the VCF West survey, specifically about pricing in the consignment area.](https://tasks.zoom.us?meetingId=GH18nR2cQlyKZux6%2BbGSvg%3D%3D&stepId=f0793bd5-95f7-11f1-9026-3e666fd252ce)<https://tasks.zoom.us?meetingId=GH18nR2cQlyKZux6%2BbGSvg%3D%3D&stepId=f0793bd5-95f7-11f1-9026-3e666fd252ce>
- [Practice soldering on junk boards before attempting to solder the newly acquired Atari-specific chips.](https://tasks.zoom.us?meetingId=GH18nR2cQlyKZux6%2BbGSvg%3D%3D&stepId=f0793e32-95f7-11f1-87c4-3e666fd252ce)<https://tasks.zoom.us?meetingId=GH18nR2cQlyKZux6%2BbGSvg%3D%3D&stepId=f0793e32-95f7-11f1-87c4-3e666fd252ce>

Summary

Gaming Convention and Hardware Discussion

Kevin discussed attending a video game convention where high-quality promotional materials were being given away, noting the contrast between the glossy materials and typical newsprint. The conversation then shifted to discussing gaming setups and technical details about capturing video from older gaming systems, including discussions about hardware specifications and soldering techniques for repairing electronic components.

Video Playback Technical Issues Discussion

The group discussed technical issues with video playback quality when recording from older video tapes and playing them back on computer screens versus TV screens. Glenn mentioned successfully setting up a keyboard but encountered CPU problems, which were later determined not to be related to logic chips. Scott shared that he had injured his knee and would be getting an MRI on Monday. The meeting appeared to be a casual technical discussion with participants testing audio and video equipment.

Atari Floppy Disk Archiving Solutions

Glenn asked Kevin about his experience with the SAO2 PC and APE software for archiving Atari floppy disks. Kevin recommended the FujiNet device instead, describing it as more versatile than the SAO2 PC and capable of Wi-Fi, Bluetooth, USB, SD card functionality, online gaming, and floppy disk archiving. Scott then explained his method of using the Respect software with a disk copy program to create ATR files from floppies, noting that while this works well for standard disks, it may not handle copy-protected disks effectively.

Atari Floppy Disk Preservation Methods

The group discussed preserving and archiving Atari floppy disks, with Scott sharing his experience of archiving 300 floppies in 2018-2019 and discovering a previously unknown text adventure game. Kevin recommended using free software called "Respect" for downloading and managing Atari software, and suggested the Fujinet as a useful device for transferring files to SD cards. Scott also mentioned building an SDMAX device using an Arduino Uno board for managing virtual floppy drives, though he noted it requires more technical setup than the Fujinet.

FujiNet Device and VCF West

The group discussed the FujiNet device, with Kevin explaining its capabilities and how it allows connecting physical drives with digital storage. Rod shared his experience attending VCF West virtually by setting up his Atari collection and watching live streams from the event. The conversation also touched on the recent VCF West exhibition, though specific details about awards or recognition were not clearly confirmed.

VCF Event Experience Discussion

The group discussed their experiences at the VCF event, where they met several notable figures including Leonard Tramiel, Al Alcorn, and David Crane from Activision. They observed David Crane and Gary Kitchen selling signed game boxes for around \$100 each, and Glenn mentioned seeing hologram-related displays including a rotating hologram of Atari engineers from the company's early hologram development period. Glenn agreed to share a video of the hologram display with the group via email.

Falcon 030 Project Development Plans

The group discussed Steve Suavec's Falcon 030 project, where he plans to publish Gerber files on GitHub for building custom Falcon computers. Kevin mentioned purchasing the required Atari-specific chips in advance to avoid a stampede of builders once the Gerber files are released. The discussion also covered Steve's plans to upgrade the keyboard design to use a standard microcontroller instead of the aging ST keyboard chips, and Glenn suggested adapting the keyboard design for the 1200XL.

Rare Blitter Chips Sourcing Discussion

The group discussed sourcing rare blitter chips, with Kevin explaining that their friend Harry obtained them from LSI, including DSP and combo chips that are no longer manufactured. Kevin plans to practice soldering these tiny chips using junk boards from an e-recycler before working on the actual boards. The conversation also touched on repair experiences, including Glenn's recommendation for Kevin to learn from a knowledgeable repair person at upcoming shows, and Rod's experience repairing an Atari portfolio flex connector. Randy Kindig did not attend the event due to his wife's illness.

Technology Show Experience Discussion

The group discussed their recent experience at a technology show, where they were disappointed with the audio quality of a video presentation and the pricing at the consignment area, with some items being overly priced. Glenn shared his purchases including an HP pulse generator, MOS 6502 programmer's manual, and a 6502 anniversary t-shirt, while expressing regret at missing out on an Atari 800 for \$35. Glenn also discussed his ongoing project to restore a Colette board, a rare Atari prototype, which he is working on with John Hardy's board and Christopher Strong's bare board in Utah. The conversation ended with updates from other participants including John working on the newsletter and Bob's progress on his solar-powered barn project.