

- **Notes for SLCC-Atari Zoom Meeting 8/18/26**
 - Hosted by Kevin
 - In Attendance, Kevin, Robbie, Mariano, John Zielke, Richard Diaz, Harry, Ron, Don, Garrett, and Glenn
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Review action items

- **Meeting summary**
- **Quick recap**
- The meeting focused on Atari computer enthusiasts discussing various technical topics and sharing experiences with their systems. Participants discussed ST (Atari ST) computer setups, including hard drive conversions using PP's HD driver and XBoot bootloader, with Harry sharing his experience of accidentally formatting his ST's hard drive and recovering it with help from a specialist. The group discussed FujiNet devices, with members sharing tips about formatting SD cards properly and compatibility issues with different card sizes. Mariano presented a new Roland MT-32 MIDI synthesizer emulator for ST systems that would allow better audio output for games. Kevin shared information about different Atari computer power supplies and discussed the possibility of arranging a group meeting at the library for hands-on hardware work. The conversation also covered various hardware topics including Atari 1400 power supply covers, PAL vs NTSC modifications, and experiences with VCF Midwest.
- **Next steps**
- **Glenn**
- Reformat the 32GB micro SD card for FujiNet as FAT32 with MBR and try it again to resolve file system errors.
- **Kevin**
- Get the 1400/1450 PBI cover scanned so that 3D models or replicas can be made for others to use.
- **Robbie**
- Check with the library about the possibility of using a room on a Saturday for an extended group meeting, and let Kevin know the result.
- **Summary**
- **Atari Technology Discussion Meeting**
- The group discussed Richard's new Atari watch and shared details about its appearance and functionality. The conversation then shifted to discussing an

Eric display, which uses a laser disc to show content on Atari 800 systems, with Kevin explaining his previous work with Kevin Savitz to convert it to DVD format.

- **Roland MIDI Emulator Project Discussion**

- The group discussed a Roland MIDI emulator project that Mariano is planning to build, which would allow connecting a MIDI device to an ST computer for enhanced audio output in games like Space Quest and Ultima. Mariano explained that the kit can be purchased from the UK and assembled locally to avoid customs tariffs, though it requires additional equipment like an amplifier and speakers to function properly. John mentioned having a TG-100 MIDI synthesizer that he's been wanting to set up with his ST computer.

- **Atari ST Computing Resource Recommendation**

- Kevin recommended a YouTube channel called "Commodore is Not the Only Fruit" as a valuable resource for ST (Atari ST) computing, featuring approximately 30 videos on various ST projects, software setups, and tutorials. The channel includes content on using HD drivers, SpeedoDOS, Neodesk, and XBoot for pre-boot configuration, with downloadable hard drive images available for practical implementation. Harry expressed interest in the resource and shared his recent experience spending hours working with his ST system over the weekend.

- **Atari ST Data Recovery Discussion**

- Harry shared his experience recovering his lost Atari ST data after accidentally formatting it, successfully restoring it using a specialized tool from Paul PP. The group discussed emulation options for Atari ST, with Kevin recommending Steam over HATARI, though noting that HATARI has been more recently updated. Harry agreed to share the restored image on Google Drive, and the conversation concluded with discussions about disk drive diagnosis tools like the Grease Weasel.

- **Large ST File and System Discussion**

- Harry discussed a large ST file (1.7GB that expands to 7GB) containing 2,800 curated games with a custom GameX menu launcher. Mariano expressed concerns about memory issues with the Ultra Saturn and mentioned getting a Gotek device as a solution. The group discussed the ST's practical capabilities for modern tasks like email and word processing, with Kevin noting that while the keyboard can be uncomfortable for long typing sessions, a Mega ST keyboard with mechanical switches is superior to the 1040 keyboard.

- **Atari Keyboard Discussion**

- John and Harry discussed their experiences with different Atari keyboards, with John expressing satisfaction with the 1040's feel compared to the mushy 130

model. Harry mentioned issues with his shift keys, and Kevin suggested the problem might be due to dried grease in the keyboard that could be easily fixed. The conversation then shifted to discussing different Atari drivers and the convenience of using SD cards with various driver versions for different systems.

- **Falcon System Technical Issues Discussion**

- Kevin discussed technical issues with his Falcon system, explaining that a failed chip was causing corruption of SD cards and loss of a secondary channel. The group discussed differences between ST and Falcon platforms, with Kevin noting that while Falcon has additional features like VGA output and IDE drive interface, later TOS versions (1.62 and above) work well on Falcons compared to older software from the 1980s. Harry and John shared experiences with ST mouse functionality, particularly challenges with double-clicking and mouse speed settings, with John mentioning he had replaced his ST mouse with a USB mouse using a Mauser adapter.

- **ST Systems Development Discussion**

- The group discussed ongoing work on ST systems, with Harry having a new ST system and John expressing interest in working on ST-related projects. Mariano mentioned wanting a media synthesizer for his SDK. Don joined late due to technical issues caused by a storm, and shared updates about his model train project set in 1960s Stockton, which he is building with historical accuracy in mind.

- **FujiNet Device Version Comparison**

- The group discussed different versions of the FujiNet device, with Ron and John comparing their experiences with the Pro and regular versions. John noted that while the Pro version works well with XL systems, it doesn't function on original 800 models due to power requirements, though Kevin explained this could be resolved by adding 5 volts to the right pin or using external power. The discussion also touched on practical considerations like the Pro version's toggle switch design and the decision to use external power cables instead of direct SIO connections to avoid damage.

- **Technical and Project Discussion Meeting**

- The team discussed downloading and unzipping a file, with Harry providing technical guidance on using specific software like Win32 disk imager instead of Rufus to write the image to an SD card. Garrett shared details about his NASA experience at Kennedy Space Center and his work on the SOFIA project writing Perl code. The conversation concluded with Kevin showing Glenn and Garrett a different type of PBI cover design used in 1400 and 1450 models compared to the 600 and 800 XLs.

- **Port Covers and PAL Modifications**

- Kevin demonstrated differences between port covers for 800 and 1400 machines, noting that the 1400 cover is physically smaller and has different clips, with one participant offering to lend a cover for scanning to create 3D models. Glenn discussed his experience with PAL modifications on a 130XE, explaining how it allows running European software but causes issues with LCD screens from thrift shops. The group briefly discussed PAL vs NTSC differences in gaming and monitor compatibility, with Mariano mentioning having a PAL TV that could be used for better display quality.

- **Personal Projects and Challenges Update**

- The group discussed various personal projects and challenges. Garrett mentioned his Retroscaler 2X package being delayed at customs, while Mariano shared issues with an ultrasound device and repairs to his Spectrum computers. Kevin suggested organizing a Saturday meeting for extended project work, and Robbie agreed to check if the library would allow them to use a room for this purpose. Glenn asked about using a 32GB micro SD card for a project, though the discussion ended before an answer was provided.

- **SD Card Compatibility and VCF**

- The group discussed technical issues with SD card compatibility for FujiNet, with Harry explaining that cards above 32GB use different hardware specifications (SDXC) which may not work with some older devices. Harry recommended formatting the card as FAT32 with MBR partitioning using Rufus, and John mentioned that others in his group successfully use 64GB cards formatted this way. The conversation then shifted to VCF Midwest, where John sought advice on what to look for and potentially purchase, with the group discussing various vintage computer equipment pricing and availability.