

- **Notes for SLCC-Atari Zoom Meeting 8/25/26**
- Hosted by Kevin
- In Attendance, Kevin, Robbie, Glenn, John Z., Don, Ron, Scott, Mariano, and Bob

[Review action items](#)

- **Meeting summary**
- **Quick recap**
- The meeting was a casual gathering of retro computing enthusiasts who shared updates on their projects and discussed various technical challenges. Kevin mentioned being out of town for the next meetings and showed off some vintage computer hardware. Mariano reported on getting his Atari ST up and running with a Gotek and UltraSatan, and discussed repairing a trackball and working on MIDI projects. John talked about his work on timekeeping accuracy for Atari computers and his newsletter preparations. Scott shared news of a severe knee injury and updates on his beekeeping. The group also discussed using AI tools like ChatGPT and Gemini for troubleshooting, and Kevin offered to share scanned newsletters with John for potential archiving. The conversation included discussions on games, hardware repairs, and the challenges of using AI for technical support.
- **Next steps**
- **John**
- [Send the latest newsletter to the group on the 1st of the month.](#)
- **Kevin**
- [Update the Gmail group list to include Harry.](#)
- [Send Robbie an updated list of attendees' addresses for the meeting.](#)
- [Send John a package of scanned and OCR'd newsletters for review and potential upload to archive.org.](#)
- **Kevin**
- [Send Mariano800XL a mouse for his Atari ST setup.](#)
- [Email Kevin his mailing address to receive the mouse.](#)
- [Try using JB Superweld \(UV resin glue\) to repair the cracked encoder disk of the trackball.](#)
- [Send John the script used to download the entire Analog magazine collection from archive.org.](#)
- **Robbie**
- [Send an email to the group as soon as there is a decision about the library room booking.](#)

- [Run the in-person meetings on the 1st and 8th of September in Kevin's absence.](#)
- **Summary**
- **Club Meeting Updates Discussion**
- The group discussed several topics including an issue with Harry's email to the club that bounced, which Kevin needs to address by updating the Gmail group list. Robbie reported that the library meeting request was submitted late due to new stricter rules requiring 10 days advance notice, and he will update everyone as soon as he hears back from the library. Kevin announced he will be out of town for both the September 1st and 8th meetings, so Robbie will need to handle the next in-person meetings.
- **ST Setup and Repair Updates**
- Mariano shared updates on his ST setup, including getting his ST running with a Gotek and UltraSatan, and successfully repairing a trackball by reassembling it. He discussed needing to replace a broken encoder disk for Mission Command, with Scott suggesting superglue as an alternative to 3D printing a replacement. Kevin offered to send Mariano a mouse from his collection, and later recommended UV resin for repairing the encoder disk, which Mariano expressed interest in trying.
- **Spectrum Computer Repair Progress**
- Mariano discussed his progress on repairing and assembling Spectrum computers, with help from Mike from Washington who fixed two of his machines and will return them next week. Mariano also shared his plans to implement a MIDI synthesizer project using a Roland emulator with his Raspberry Pi, which will allow him to play games like Space Quest with improved sound effects. The group briefly discussed using UV glue to secure a disc to Mariano's forehead, though this was meant humorously rather than seriously.
- **Atari Computer Timing Calibration**
- John discussed his recent activities, including working on his newsletter and experimenting with Atari computer timing accuracy. He discovered that his 600XL computer was initially 4.8 seconds off per hour but was successfully calibrated to within 2 seconds after 24 hours. John also shared his plans to expand his weather monitoring project by adding wireless Raspberry Pi Picos and eventually controlling Alexa devices through his Atari system using FujiNet. His next newsletter is scheduled for release on the first of the month.
- **Upcoming Events and Updates Discussion**
- The group discussed upcoming events and personal updates. Kevin confirmed attendance at VCF Midwest but mentioned he cannot attend due to family

commitments with his 90-year-old father. The conversation also included technical troubleshooting with Bob's screen sharing issues and a discussion about retro computer games, particularly ST games like Starglider, Moon Buggy, and Sun Dog.

- **Atari Timekeeping System Accuracy**

- The group discussed timekeeping accuracy on Atari systems, with Scott explaining that the 60 Hz assumption in Atari timing is actually 59.94 Hz, causing a slight drift over time. John shared his experience testing the timing system over 24 hours, losing only two seconds, and planned to run a 30-day test to further validate the accuracy. The conversation then shifted to casual topics, including Kevin's purchase of an Atari mouse pad and Glenn sharing photos of his beagle dog Marley.

- **Compute Gazette Magazine Discussion**

- The group discussed the latest Compute Gazette magazine, with Kevin noting improvements in article clarity about which computer systems they cover. They mentioned that while the magazine is primarily Commodore-focused due to the editor's background, it now includes more Atari and IBM content. The discussion also touched on other computing magazines and newsletters, including a new British publication called Legacy magazine, and they shared experiences about navigating German technical content from the ST era.

- **Knee Injury and Treatment Updates**

- Scott shared that he severely injured his right knee, including an ACL tear, MCL sprain, meniscus damage, and a tibia fracture, with his earliest doctor appointment not until September 17. He estimated his knee surgery would likely be delayed until late September or early October due to the fracture requiring weight restriction. Scott mentioned he had been working in his yard and shop despite the injury and discussed his beekeeping activities, including collecting a hive from a neighbor and selling it, though he hadn't recently checked on the bees due to hot weather.

- **AI Troubleshooting Experience Discussion**

- Kevin shared his experience using AI to troubleshoot an old HP laptop's touchscreen issue under Windows 10, describing the interactive process and the importance of verifying AI suggestions. Glenn discussed using AI to help with Raspberry Pi scripts and disassembling an old TRS-80 assembly program, noting the need to double-check AI responses. The group discussed the limitations and strengths of different AI tools, emphasizing the importance of having relevant knowledge and cross-verification when using AI for technical tasks.

- **8-bit Computer Newsletter Archiving**

- The group discussed archiving and digitizing newsletters from various 8-bit computer user groups. John shared his ongoing project of cleaning up old newsletters from archive.org, while Kevin offered to share a collection of scanned newsletters from around the world that he had OCR'd. Mariano mentioned creating a script to download complete collections of analog magazines from archive.org in PDF format. The discussion concluded with plans for Kevin to send John a package of newsletters to review for potential upload to archive.org.