

## Notes For SLCC Zoom Meeting 8-27-2024

Hosted by Kevin

In Attendance, Kevin, Robbie, Scott, Don, Bob, Rodrigo, Mariano

- Don asked about the new Atari 400(+?) did anyone in our group get one? It's ¼ the size of the old 400 and uses USB to load games. Rumors are they will come out with an 800 with a flip top.
- Scott corrected Robbie about using “noches” when he greeted Rod, thinking that it was morning in Chile(it wasn't, somewhere around 11 P.M.)
- Kevin mentioned he gets yelled at in Spanish. He asked Rod if he speak a combination of English and Spanish with his family, but Rod replied it's all in Spanish.
- Scott, in speaking about the weather in Texas, said he waters his foundation so that the soil around it doesn't shrink away.
- Mariano just got back from L.A. where he registered someone at U.C.L.A.(one of his kids?)He showed a Dragon 32 computer that he is working on. He had problems with the keys, but he cleaned them up. He is going to upgrade it to 64K, but needs some jumpers. He has a flicker problem with the monitor, and Kevin suggests the 64K upgrade might fix that. He shows the output with the flickering, and says a CRT is better than an LCD screen.
- Robbie thanked Richard for his cartridge of “Qbert”, and brought an Atari 800XL, monitor and joystick over to his neighbor who really enjoyed playing Qbert. She made him take it back after a few days because she couldn't get anything done!
- Kevin asked Bob how his cleanup of his projects is going. Bob said he's getting rid of stuff in his workroom. Bob asked about using an external camera instead of a built-in camera, which he can't find at the moment. He showed some XEP 80 controller chips, but he doesn't remember why he has them!
- Kevin showed off a new soldering iron that Rod recognized, but Kevin didn't like the cord it came with because it gets in the way when he's soldering. Rod noticed the OLED screen that it has so you can adjust the temperature. It comes with a power brick and lots of cords, and heats up quickly, unless you don't use the power brick. It also uses USB, but is slow to heat up that way. Kevin plugged it into his computer via USB, and his computer shut down! He prefers one with a hot air station and a de-soldering unit. He likes that you can change tips quickly, and that it is easy to use like a pencil. Rod keeps the power supply in a drawer so that the small iron is easy to use. It came with an attachable stand.
- Rod showed off a new joystick and an Atari Game Station Pro. He doesn't like the emulation of Super Nintendo Games, but likes the good form factor, and enjoys playing games on a 50” monitor. Kevin saw a lag and jitter with Super Nintendo. Rod enjoyed playing,”Adventure”, and got a great feeling playing an old game in 2024, considering how long the brand has lasted. He showed an Atari 2600 on his wall, but enjoys playing with a new unit.
- Mariano played,”Sword Quest” and said it was very hard. Kevin said to put it on an SD Card and play it on a Game Station Pro. He said that people don't get, that the old games are good. He can't get his son to watch anything that isn't 1080 P. Rod's son says it's so different. Kevin is trying to get his son to play “Myst”. He can't get his son to just walk around instead of gaming in some huge world. Kevin says it takes thinking, rather than aiming and shooting.
- Kevin showed his collection of InfoWorld Games like “Border Zone” and said it's hard to find. He has the Commodore 64 version, including,”feelies” like a matchbook(which he says you need to finish the game)and a business card that you need, also to finish, as well as a map.
- Don asked about all the followers on Facebook, and Kevin said there are 350 followers.

- Mariano can't post comments on Facebook, and Kevin doesn't know why **HE** can, but thinks it has something to do with Bill George.
- Scott wondered if Trump will be censoring Atari.
- Kevin showed off, "Fooblitsky", which is partially a video game and a table game. He also showed his "Zork" legacy collection CDs and remembered, "standing in a meadow, there's a white house and a mailbox". He also showed "Zork" books and a comic book form with 5.25" floppy discs. He showed, "Sherlock" and "Arthur" by Activision. He's still missing # 2 and #3, but has all the Atari versions. He suggested you can play them on a browser. New versions won't play on an Ataris. You can download new engines for, "Adventure".
- Scott played, "Hitchhikers Guide to the Galaxy", but it was said that Doug Adams lost interest, so he stopped writing.
- Don said you could write your own adventures with certain programs like "STOS" for the Atari ST. in BASIC, but Kevin showed the instruction manual was in very tiny type.
- Scott spent 24 hours writing a text adventure in High School, with a 2D array for all the rooms, that was Zodiac themed, with an Aquarius Room, and, a Pisces Room.
- Speaking of Space, Scott said the latest flight was delayed because of a helium leak. He said they are bringing space suits up to the astronauts that are stranded on the Space Station because Space X and NASA spacesuits are different. He said they need a helium-rich environment in the Starliner spacecraft because it is coming back empty of human occupants.