

Notes For SLCC ZOOM Meeting 9/17/2024

Hosted by Robbie

In Attendance, Robbie, Don, Bob, Michael S., Scott

- We talked about the upcoming partial eclipse of the Moon. Don had a live view on the Internet, the rest of us had cloudy conditions.
- Michael is experiencing being older...took a walk on uneven ground and hurt his foot, and is now wearing a nice boot to protect his foot.
- We talked about the Moon eclipse as Don showed it live on his monitor. He mentioned a moon of Jupiter, Europa, and the movie, "2001", and Scott quoted a line from "2010", "All these worlds are yours except Europa." Don mentioned the U.S. is in a race to Jupiter with the Chinese because there are diamonds there. The song, "Lucy In The Sky With Diamonds" was brought up.
- Scott said many millions of years ago a star came close to the Earth and affected our orbit.
- Michael is fixing his Atari 1200XL and needs a keyboard membrane. He had given another 1200XL to The Club.
- Bob remembered an eclipse he saw while in San Francisco where the Moon was dark red.
- Don said there will be a total eclipse at the end of the year.
- Michael hoped to see an aurora.
- Robbie mentioned watching Northern Lights while in Iceland, but being disappointed that it just looked like wispy S.F. fog.
- Michael has been collecting C.D.s and plays them occasionally.
- Scott went all day to a bee school to learn beekeeping skills. He got feral bees, which are bees that have escaped from human management and established wild colonies. He went to classes on isolating the queen so she doesn't get killed. We learned that dragonflies eat bees. The virgin queen bee goes out to meet drones and mate, and then carries the sperm for the rest of her life. Scott was chased by a bee that sounded mad! He said that bees only live 6 weeks. Royal jelly is fed to all larva and the queen, and only certain areas of the hive is used for royal jelly.

- When Michael was just out of high school, he looked into a room and saw a black cloud of bees that had made a nest in the wall.
- We learned that bees don't go out at night.
- Michael is doing firmware tweaks on his board for the NUC. He finished the final version of the data sheet, and the only thing left is the assembly manual, so you can build your own board. He has 2 weeks to go.
- Bob got a new webcam.
- We discussed threat emails. Michael suggested not using a major email client. Robbie asked if it was o.k. to click on an attached .pdf file and Michael said not to click on anything. It was said, "not on an Atari", but Bob and Scott mentioned malware programs on Ataris, one would light a pixel on the screen and little by little the screen would fill, and Scott mentioned static that would take over the affected program.
- Scott was playing "Ultima II" and popped out the disk because he was drowning in a whirlpool, but when he put the disk back in he was drowning again!
- Bob's working on his property and got branches chipped up. He was asked if he had any new stuff in his barn? He has bad Atari XF551 disk drive boards and Michael suggested buying new boards, but not from Express PCB.
- Michael showed some PCBs that were very inexpensive.
- Bob showed his "development machines", a bunch of PCs he's working on. He says deer keep him busy in the garden.