

Meeting summary for SLCC-Atari Zoom Meeting 12/23/24

Hosted By Kevin

● In Attendance: Kevin, Robbie Bob, Scott, Don, Bill, Garrett

Quick recap

The team discussed plans to promote their Facebook page and attract new members, as well as various technical topics such as router placement, computer building, and 3D printing. They also shared personal experiences and interests, including utility usage and costs, and holiday preparations. The conversation ended with plans to reconvene the following Monday and the potential for expanding their meetings to include more people.

Next steps

- Kevin to update and promote the club's Facebook page to expand membership.
- Scott to provide an update on the rubber plugs/feet for Atari 800 computers once they arrive.
- Kevin to carefully introduce new members from Facebook to the Zoom meetings in small groups.
- Scott to follow up on getting a larger whole-house generator installed.
- Scott to pursue agricultural exemption for property taxes in 4 years due to beekeeping.
- Scott to monitor developments with the proposed Emergency Services District for potential impacts on local fire services and property taxes/insurance.

Summary

Club Promotion and Printer Issues

Kevin discusses plans to promote the club's Facebook page and attract new members next year. Scott jokes about restrictions on saying "Merry Christmas" in California, prompting a lighthearted exchange. They also discuss Scott's tall flagpoles and decorating them for Christmas, as well as challenges with printer drivers and reinstalling them. The conversation touches on brands like Canon, Epson, Brother, Lexmark, and Dell printers that members have used.

Router Placement and Temperature Effects

Robbie initiated a discussion about the placement of routers, specifically questioning the wisdom of keeping them in garages due to temperature differences. Scott and Kevin shared their experiences, with Scott planning to move his router to his shop and Kevin using a mesh system in his house. The group also discussed the potential effects of cold on computer components and the use of 3D printed devices to clean floppy disks. The conversation ended with a discussion about the lack of 5.25-inch USB floppy drives, which Kevin suggested could be a lucrative business opportunity.

Building New Computer and Migration

In the meeting, Kevin discussed his plans to build a new computer and migrate his current system to it, aiming to maintain the performance of his current setup. Don shared his experience with a new computer and the challenges of transferring data from his old one. Scott showcased his 3D printing skills, printing a box for a game he created. The team also discussed the upcoming arrival of feet for the Atari 800, which Scott will report on once they arrive.

Atari 800 Computer Board Discussion

Kevin discussed a unique Atari 800 computer board he found in a friend's liquidation. The

board, which protects the memory and allows for the transfer of ROM from a cartridge, was professionally made but lacked any identifying information. Scott suggested that the board could be used for self-modifying code to protect the cartridge. The team also discussed measurements for a project, with Scott sharing his findings and Kevin noting that their measurements were close.

Machine Parts Shipment and Design

Scott and Kevin discussed the upcoming shipment of machine parts, with Scott expecting them in about a week and a half. They also discussed the design of the parts, with Scott ordering two different types: one with rounded corners and another with a hemisphere shape. Kevin expressed confidence in the quality of the parts, stating that they should hold the machine in place. Additionally, Kevin shared his discovery of a unique Atari 800 software package and a simple program pamphlet. Scott planned to send a set of each part to Kevin for testing.

Expanding Meetings and Platform Discussion

The team discussed the potential of expanding their meetings to include more people, particularly from Facebook groups. They agreed on a cautious approach, inviting a few people at a time to avoid chaos and ensure they could moderate the meetings effectively. They also considered the possibility of having a theme for each meeting. The team also discussed their experiences with other platforms, such as Atari Age and Atari Forum, where they had not received much interest despite posting their meetings. They decided to try their Facebook page to see if it would yield better results. Robbie mentioned that he would bring some Atari ST items to the next meeting.

Home Routers and Internet Services

The meeting involved a discussion about various topics, including home routers and internet services. Robbie and Scott both use TP-Link routers, with Scott having three routers running simultaneously. Bill shared his experience with Comcast and his attempt to switch to Sonic, which he found more affordable. Scott also mentioned having Starlink as a backup internet service. The conversation also touched on the topic of hidden software in routers, with Robbie expressing his disregard for such issues. The conversation ended with a discussion about internet services in Texas, with Scott mentioning that his service costs \$90 a month and he also has Starlink as a backup.

Generator Capacity and House Power

Scott discussed his need for a larger generator to power his entire house, as his current 22 kilowatt generator, which he is returning to Costco, is insufficient. He explained that his house has two 200 amp panels, and he requires a generator capable of handling 400 amps. Scott also mentioned that the generator's capacity is reduced when using natural gas instead of propane. He is waiting for a pickup from Costco for his returned generator and is considering purchasing a larger one. Bill and Kevin provided some support and understanding of Scott's situation.

Utility Costs and Emergency Services

Scott shares details about his utility usage and costs, including electricity, water, and potential property tax increases to support the local fire department. He compares utility rates and taxes in Texas to California. Kevin and Robbie participate in the discussion, which also covers the proposal for an emergency services district to improve the fire department's rating and lower homeowners insurance costs. The group talks about funding challenges faced by the

fire departments in their local cities.

Personal Experiences and Holiday Plans

The team discussed various topics, including their personal experiences and interests. Scott shared his experience with printing a box, which had the words "igloo mania" but was printed with the letters in reverse. He considered whether to cancel the print and start over or let it continue. The team also discussed a book titled "Dr. C. Wacko presents Atari Basic and the whiz, bang! Miracle machine" that Kevin found on Craigslist. They also talked about their holiday preparations and shared some holiday greetings. The conversation ended with plans to reconvene the following Monday.