

Notes For SLCC Zoom Meeting 1-21-2025

Hosted by Kevin

In Attendance, Kevin, Robbie, Richard, Scott, Bob, Don

Quick recap

The meeting covered a wide range of topics, including discussions about vintage computer equipment, personal experiences with recent weather events, and technical issues related to Atari systems. Participants shared information about various computer cartridges, their attendance at a vintage computer festival, and techniques for restoring old hardware. The group also exchanged personal updates, including health issues, job situations, and hobbies, while offering support and advice to one another throughout the meeting.

Next steps

- Don to take pictures of snow accumulation the next morning and share with the group.
- Scott to get new filament rolls for his 3D printer.
- Kevin to watch the preview video for the upcoming Vintage Computer Festival in Southern California.
- Richard to continue job searching and applications.
- Bob to consider getting new LED boards for the Atari 1200XL light banks.

Summary

Pool 400 Cartridge Value Discussion

In the meeting, Bob inquires about the value of a Pool 400 cartridge. After some initial confusion, Kevin searches online and finds sold listings ranging from \$1 to \$45, with most under \$20. Scott looks up information indicating Pool 400 is a cut-down version of Pool 1.5 that requires less RAM, and it was also re-released as "Rack Em Up." Bob suggests the Pool 400 cartridge may run at high clock speeds on certain systems.

Pool Game Cartridge and New Discovery

The team discussed a pool game cartridge for the Apple 2, 48k Disk system. They considered the possibility of purchasing one and the potential cost. They also discussed the rarity of the cartridge, with a rating of 6 out of 10. A new, rare cartridge was discovered, the Austin Franklin 80 SWP ATR Console Terminal Cartridge, which was described as a communication cartridge for the SWP ATR 8,000 machine. The team expressed interest in learning more about this new cartridge.

Winter Storms and Unusual Weather

Richard and Scott report being sick with fevers, sore throats, and body aches, likely from a lack of sleep due to recent travel. Don shares that his area in Florida received an unusual 7 inches of snowfall, which is very rare, and plans to share pictures. Robbie wishes there was enough snow for skiing in his area. The group discusses the cold temperatures and expected winter storms in their respective locations.

Vintage Computer Festival and Feet

The team discussed a vintage computer festival in Southern California, with Richard and Kevin planning to attend. Scott mentioned mailing some feet to Kevin, which had not arrived yet. There was confusion about the shape of the feet for an Atari 800, with some being square and others curved. Scott also mentioned receiving a large shipment of bullets. The team also discussed the possibility of changes in the production of the feet over time.

Serial Number, Date Code, and Feet

The team discussed the serial number and date code of a device, with Scott and Kevin trying to decipher the information. They also discussed the possibility of sending feet to a recipient, with Scott having sent 10 of each to Kevin. However, there were concerns about the envelope being too thick and potentially causing issues with the recipient's mail sorting machine. The team also discussed the possibility of Kevin purchasing the feet online. Richard shared that he had been laid off in December and was currently focusing on finding a new job.

Ironing Techniques for Damaged Materials

In the meeting, Kevin shared a successful method for ironing a severely wrinkled box, which involved using steam and letting it sit overnight. Richard and Scott also shared their experiences with ironing, with Richard noting that the outcome could vary depending on the type of coating on the box. Robbie, however, encountered difficulties with ironing 8mm film, which remained wavy and wrinkled despite his attempts. The team discussed the challenges of working with old, damaged materials and the need for effective techniques to restore them.

Towels and Vintage Tech Discussion

The transcript discusses different types of towels to use when fixing 8mm film, with opinions shared on using tea towels, t-shirts or thin cotton towels. It also mentions a device that converts an old Hayes modem to use Wi-Fi, with descriptions of its components like a speaker for dial tones. There is talk about vintage computer displays at an event, including Atari systems playing music through geometric shapes. One participant reminisces about programming a tank game on an early computer in high school.

Show Experiences, Swag, and YouTube

Richard, Kevin, Scott, Robbie, and Don discussed their experiences at a recent show, with Richard expressing hope for an even bigger event next time. They also talked about the availability of swag, including t-shirts and stickers, and the potential for consignment sales. The conversation then shifted to a YouTube channel featuring a developer for Fuji net and a show about making modern modems. They also discussed the rising cost of Info games and the potential value of old Amigas. Lastly, they shared personal experiences, with Don describing his house and the challenges faced by a neighbor trying to clear roads in Florida.

Snowfall and Winter Weather Discussions

The team discussed the heavy snowfall in Texas, with Don sharing his backyard's snow accumulation and his plans to take pictures of the snow the next day. Don also shared his ham radio and CB antenna setup. The team also discussed the cold weather in their respective locations, with Scott mentioning his efforts to keep his cat warm and Richard sharing his dog-walking routine. The conversation ended with Don mentioning the heavy snowfall being a record for the coast and the uncertainty about the snowfall's comparison to 130 years ago.

Atari Equipment Repair Challenges Discussed

The participants discussed their experiences with Atari equipment, specifically focusing on the 4 and 10 tens. Kevin shared that they had stopped repairing these devices due to the difficulty and messiness involved. They mentioned that the original square 410s were easier to fix, but later models were more challenging. The group also discussed the issue of hardening grease in the machines, which could cause gears to break. Robbie mentioned that he had a few of these machines, and they could be found on eBay, but Kevin warned that these often didn't work either. The conversation ended with the group acknowledging the challenges of

repairing Atari equipment.

Machine Issues and 3D Printing Projects

In the meeting, Kevin and Bob discussed a man who had been weighing in and out with Sharon and had taken some items back. They also talked about issues with different machines and the need for upgrades. Bob mentioned a problem with the solder joints on some machines and how it could lead to people thinking there was a problem with the machine itself. Kevin suggested a solution of replacing the PCBs with new ones printed from PCBway. Scott discussed his 3D printing projects, including a 4-foot wide rack for canned dispensers and a pair of panels that took 7.5 hours to print. Richard and Robbie also participated in the discussion.