

## Notes For SLCC Zoom Meeting 2-25-2025

Hosted by Kevin

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

- **Quick recap**

- The team reminisced about their experiences with classic arcade games, cassette tapes, and VHS rewinders, and shared personal updates and anecdotes. They also discussed various technologies, including vintage computers, Google's Gemini, and Microsoft's code solutions, and shared their experiences with beekeeping and agricultural tax exemption. Lastly, they discussed an electrical issue with a GFCI outlet in Robbie's backyard and the possibility of reviving the rivalry between Apple, Atari, and Commodore computers from the 1980s.

- **Next steps**

- • Robbie to bring floppies and other items to next week's in-person meeting for Kevin.
- • Ronald to try to attend next week's in-person meeting at the library.
- • Robbie to investigate and troubleshoot the non-functioning GFI outlet in his backyard.
- • Kevin to implement his spring project of replacing a section of dead grass with artificial turf in his backyard.
- • Scott to continue managing his beehives and prepare for honey extraction in the future.

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- **Summary**

- **Tape Issues and Retro Entertainment Memories**

- Robbie discusses issues with some of his cassette tapes not playing properly, despite attempts to fix them by fast-forwarding and rewinding. The group reminisces about VHS rewinders shaped like cars, with Kevin mentioning he had one that looked like a combination of a Corvette and a Ferrari. They also share memories of renting movies from Blockbuster and shopping at Half Price Books. Robbie mentions that his daughter-in-law enjoyed playing Hubert on a cartridge provided by Richard, but notes that Breakout isn't included on it.

- **Classic Arcade Games and Memories**

- The team discussed various classic arcade games, reminiscing about their experiences playing them. They talked about Pac-Man, Joust, Centipede, Millipede, and Baby Pac-Man, among others. They also discussed the concept of micro-games within larger games, attributing its origin to Bill Williams. The team also shared personal anecdotes, such as Richard's daughter needing help with taxes and Kevin's son learning to do his taxes independently. The conversation ended with Richard sharing pictures of his Atari Projects book and the team reminiscing about their favorite arcade games.

- **Richard's Vintage Computer Collection**

- In the meeting, Richard showcased his collection of vintage computers and gadgets, including a Libroscope computer, a 4-drive tower, and various Apple and Atari models. He also discussed his plans to improve the organization and labeling of his

collection using 3D printed labels and magnets. Richard also mentioned his interest in using a paper white screen device that uses near field communication to display computer representations. The team also discussed the potential of using the Libroscope computer for parallel processing and the possibility of using it as both RAM and storage.

- **Personal and Professional Updates Discussed**

- The team discussed various personal and professional updates. Ron shared that he was waiting for a game drive to arrive, and his mother was doing well. Bob was busy sorting through his inventory, while Don was working on a train route he had been reworking. Scott shared his recent activities, including playing games on a cartridge and updating his tax computer. The team also reminisced about past experiences, such as the time Ron's Zoom settings were misinterpreted. The conversation ended with no significant decisions or action items, but the team seemed to enjoy each other's company and shared experiences.

- **Baby Pac-Man and California Extreme**

- The group discusses Baby Pac-Man, a unique arcade game that combines Pac-Man with pinball. They then transition to talking about California Extreme, an annual event in Santa Clara featuring hundreds of free-play pinball machines and arcade games. Kevin shares his experience attending the event, mentioning the large crowds and the presence of vendors who sell parts and offer repair services for vintage games. The group also discusses the ticket prices and dates for the upcoming event in July.

- **Shake Shack's Tallow Fries and Meeting Plans**

- The team discussed various topics, including the switch by Shake Shack to cooking their fries in all-beef tallow, and the potential health benefits of this change. Robbie shared his experiences with reading old Doc files without Microsoft Word, and his plans to digitize his commercial floppies. The team also discussed their upcoming meeting at the library, with Robbie saying he and Kevin arrive by 6:30 and start the meeting at 6:45. Ron expressed his intention to attend the meeting.

- **Beekeeping Experiences and Agricultural Tax**

- Scott shared his recent beekeeping experiences, including inspecting his hives and finding the queen in both. He added a deep brood box to one hive and plans to add a honey super in the spring. Scott also mentioned that he has ordered four more hives and aims to extract honey for sale at the farmers market. The team discussed the potential for agricultural tax exemption after five years of beekeeping. Richard suggested adding goats or cows, but Scott clarified that he lives in the city limits and needs at least 5 acres for the exemption.

- **Honey Uses and Beekeeping Discussion**

- The team discussed various uses for honey, including as a spread on toast, in coffee, and as a skin moisturizer. Scott suggested a honey-based drink with lime or lemon juice and bourbon or rum, which he claimed was good for sore throats. The team also discussed the process of beekeeping, with Scott sharing his experience of wearing a full bee suit and the challenges of handling bees. The conversation also touched on various breakfast and snack ideas, with some members expressing skepticism about certain combinations, such as honey on pizza.

- **Technology Experiences and Challenges Discussed**

- The team discussed their experiences with various technologies, including Google's new Gemini and Microsoft's code solutions. Richard shared his use of Chat GPT for writing responses, and the team discussed the challenges of writing drivers for different cards in the right order. They also reminisced about their experiences with older technologies, such as PDP-11 systems and early computers. The conversation ended with a discussion about the cost of certain items, with Don correcting his earlier statement about the cost of a test tool he was referring to.

- **GFCI Outlet Issue and Troubleshooting**

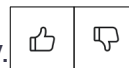
- Robbie and Scott discussed an electrical issue with a GFCI outlet in Robbie's backyard. The outlet, which has two outlets and a light, was not functioning. Scott suggested that the reset button might be hard to press and recommended using a pen to press it deeper. Robbie planned to investigate further with a flashlight and magnifying glass. Scott and Kevin also discussed the possibility of a GFCI issue further upstream on the line. Don suggested turning off the power to the house and pressing the reset button to test if it would click in and stay. Robbie confirmed that there was another outlet on the deck that was working fine. The team agreed to monitor the situation and report back next week.

- **Grass Condition, Artificial Turf, Rivalry**

- The meeting involved a discussion about various topics, including the condition of the grass in Kevin's backyard, which was damaged by his dogs. Kevin proposed to replace the damaged section with artificial turf, but Robbie expressed concerns about the health implications of artificial turf. They also discussed the possibility of reviving the rivalry between Apple, Atari, and Commodore computers from the 1980s. Richard had to leave the meeting to clean up after his dog, and the group decided to meet in person next week for further discussions.

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