

Notes For SLCC Zoom Meeting 4-22-2025

Hosted by Kevin

In Attendance, Kevin, Mariano, Michael, Bob, Don, Richard, and Ron

Quick recap

- The meeting covered a wide range of topics, including personal updates, technology discussions, and shared experiences. Participants discussed their current projects, challenges, and interests, ranging from Atari-related work to AI applications and historical anecdotes about early computing. The group also touched on practical matters like dealing with junk mail, shared personal stories, and concluded with casual conversations about weather and beekeeping.

● Next steps

- • Bob: Continue working on recovering and implementing OS Plus, including finding necessary hardware components and programmer
- • Bob: Research and document features and utilities of OS Plus operating system and share findings with the group
- • Kevin: Review the power supply specifications for the XF551 drive board to determine the correct power requirements and prevent future damage
- • Kevin: Contact the board designer about potential repair of the damaged XF551 drive board
- • Don: Test if leaving a cartridge plugged in with Deoxit treatment prevents contact issues on the Jaguar console
- • Ron: Research and implement solutions to reduce junk mail, including potentially using a "Return to Sender" stamp
- • Mariano: Continue job search while current position is at risk
- • Richard: Start new job at Phase Scientific on Monday

● Summary

● Team Shares Personal Anecdotes

● In the meeting, Mariano, Kevin, Michael, Don, and Richard discussed their well-being and shared personal anecdotes. Mariano mentioned a recent sunstroke incident, while Kevin expressed his optimism. Don showcased his Jaguar setup, and Richard shared his living space, including a couch and a cabin. The team also discussed their future plans, with Michael expressing his desire to finish his barn and Richard considering adding a bathroom.

● Job News and Junk Mail

● Richard shared positive news about getting a job at a small startup called Phase Scientific, which makes over-the-counter diagnostic products. Mariano expressed his concern about possibly losing his job due to a difficult manager and the current economic situation. Ron discussed dealing with a large amount of junk mail from various organizations and sought advice on how to get off these mailing lists. The team suggested searching for government websites or contacting the post office for assistance.

● Excessive Mail and Atari Projects

● Ron discussed the ongoing issue of receiving excessive mail, which he believes is a result of donations to various organizations. He expressed his frustration with the situation and considered the possibility of using a rubber stamp to return the mail. The team also

discussed the potential of digital communication replacing physical mail. Bob shared his work on Atari-related projects, including an operating system called OS Plus, which he is trying to recover and make functional again.

- **Installing OS Plus on Atari Computers**

- Bob discusses installing OS Plus, an alternative operating system for Atari computers. He explains that it requires replacing the ROM and reprogramming the MMU, but no soldering is needed if the motherboard has 28-pin sockets. OS Plus reportedly includes high-speed code, various utilities, and features accessible via keystrokes. The group also briefly mentions other alternative Atari operating systems like Warp Plus and compares their features.

- **Hardware Upgrade and Atari Projects**

- Bob discussed a hardware upgrade project without a schematic, which he plans to tackle. Michael shared his non-Atari project, a small compressor, and his plans to create a tiny gas chiller. He also mentioned his decision to pause new Atari projects due to rising PCB and shipping costs. Mariano expressed interest in setting up a Z80 factory in his basement. Don shared his ongoing work on a project, comparing it to programming. Ronald asked about Don's work on the Jaguar, to which Don responded that he was just displaying it.

- **Protecting Atari Cartridge Contacts Discussion**

- Don discussed his strategy to protect the contacts of his Atari cartridge by leaving it plugged in for extended periods. Michael and Bob suggested using Deoxit to clean the contacts and prevent damage. Kevin shared his experience with a faulty XF 5, 5, 1 drive, which he suspected was due to incorrect power supply usage. The group agreed to further investigate the issue and possibly consult the drive's manufacturer for guidance.

- **Exploring AI Applications in Retro Devices**

- In the meeting, Kevin discussed the process of restoring and working on old devices, including the use of retro brightening and the challenges of dealing with scratched and damaged items. Mariano showcased an AI-generated image of an Atari action figure and demonstrated how AI can be used to explain and understand complex models, such as those used in language and image recognition. The team also discussed the potential for character recognition on older devices, with Mariano highlighting the importance of pre-trained models for efficient processing. The conversation ended with a discussion on the potential for further development and exploration of AI applications.

- **Mouse Invention and Silicon Valley History**

- In the meeting, Kevin discussed the origin of the mouse invention, attributing it to Douglas Engelbart, who was working under a NASA contract at the time. Mariano and Bob questioned the accuracy of this information, with Michael suggesting that Engelbart might have been stretching the truth. The group also shared personal experiences and photos related to technology and Silicon Valley landmarks.

- **Mouse Evolution and Product Demos**

- The team discussed the history of the mouse, its invention, and its evolution. They also shared stories about product demos and the challenges faced during those times. The conversation included anecdotes about the early days of computing, the West Coast Computer Fair, and the development of the first iPhone. They also touched upon the concept of "vaporware" and the challenges faced by companies like Osborne Computers. The team reminisced about the past and shared their experiences in the tech industry.

- **Weather and Beekeeping Discussion**

- The group discusses the weather in different locations, with some members mentioning pleasant conditions in their areas. Bob talks about the insulation in his barn, and Michael shares an experience of hot summer nights in Pollock Pines. The conversation then shifts to Scott's beekeeping activities, which leads to Michael recounting a story about finding a beehive in his house. Ken shares an anecdote about a beehive in his high school science classroom, and the group briefly discusses wasps and fig trees. The meeting concludes with Kevin calling an end to the session and members saying their goodbyes.