

Notes For SLCC Zoom Meeting 5-6-2025

Hosted by Kevin

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

- **Quick recap**

- The team discussed various personal and professional topics, including their experiences with old technology, gardening, and computing. They also shared their knowledge about different tools and techniques, such as wire stripping and 3D printing, and discussed the history of Apple and Atari. Additionally, they discussed the upcoming ban on gas stations in California, the challenges of using old technology, and the environmental impact of Mtbe.

- **Next steps**

- • Scott's sister-in-law: Hire an electrician to replace house panels and install proper wiring to the garage to replace temporary extension cord setup
- • Lenore: Complete and test the prototype 1250 XL board once the smaller test boards arrive from China
- • Robbie: Replace the batteries in the 386 computer with new 2032 batteries and reinstall Kevin's battery holder with sliding door
- • Robbie: Report back next week about the condition of his TRS-80 keyboard, specifically checking for wear near the space bar
- • Bob: Test and identify which PS/2 keyboard has the bad End key among the three keyboards from the box
- • Bob: Troubleshoot and resolve the KVM switch video cable connection issue
- • Lenore: Start 3D scanning project of Atari 8-bit cases after completing the 1250 project

- **Summary**

- **Rescheduled Meeting Discusses Personal Topics**

- In the meeting, Robbie and Kevin discussed their personal lives, including Robbie's tomato gardening and Kevins dislike for tomatoes. They also talked about a game from their past, the Avalon Hill game. The meeting was initially scheduled for Tuesday, but due to a library change, it was rescheduled for the following week. The attendees, including Don, Bob, and Scott, were informed about the change.

- **Replacing Backup Batteries in 386**

- In the meeting, Robbie shared his experience with a 386 computer, which had a backup battery that wasn't working. Kevin had fixed it with a new battery, but Robbie struggled to remove the screws and didn't notice the battery had a sliding door. Robbie decided to take the computer apart and replace the batteries with new 2032 batteries. Don recommended using Energizer Ultimate Lithium batteries, which are less likely to leak.

- **Text-Based Game for 8-Bit Systems**

- Don discussed a text-based game where players input their units' positions and the computer responds with its own positions and calculations. He mentioned the game's release in 1981 and its compatibility with various 8-bit systems. Scott and Robbie participated in the conversation, but their specific contributions were not clear from the transcript.

- **TRS-80 and Atari: Nostalgic Computing Memories**

- The team discussed the history of Apple and Atari, with a focus on the rivalry between Steve Jobs and Bill Gates. They also reminisced about the early days of computing, including the TRS-80 and Atari machines. The conversation was light-hearted and nostalgic, with participants sharing their personal experiences and memories of these iconic devices.

- **PS 2 Keyboards and KVM Switch**

- Bob was testing keyboards from a box marked "PS 2 keyboards" and planned to offer them to others. He was also working on a KVM switch, which he was having trouble plugging in. The issue was identified as a missing pin on the male side of the connector, which could be causing a polarity problem.

- **Tractor Screen Freezing and Ego Mower**

- In the meeting, Bob shared his experience with his tractor's computer screen freezing and how he resolved the issue by disconnecting and reconnecting the battery connections. Scott discussed his son's new Ego 0 turn mower, which uses giant batteries and has a fancy display readout. The conversation also touched on the use of hydraulic motors in some machinery and the challenges faced by landscapers due to California's ban on small off-road engines with 25 horsepower or less.

- **Old Technology and Film Discussion**

- The team discussed various topics, including Robbie's collection of old items, such as a movie viewer and a flight simulator. They also talked about the challenges of using old technology, like a projector and a needle for a turntable. The conversation then shifted to the topic of film, with Robbie mentioning his damaged 8mm film and the process of ironing it. The conversation ended with Lenore mentioning something she wanted to discuss, but the details were not provided in the transcript.

- **3D Printing Atari Console Cases**

- Under discussed his progress on a 1,200 size board, which is currently in its fifth iteration. He mentioned that he has a couple of smaller test boards coming in from China and hopes to have a finished board soon. He also shared his plans to start a new project involving 3D printing and scanning, with the aim of creating 3D printed cases for Atari 8-bit consoles. Scott shared his experience with 3D printing, mentioning that he has ordered a lot of filament and has been using a bamboo lab A1 printer, which he found to be of high quality.

- **Bucky's Gas Station Experiences**

- In the meeting, Scott discussed his experiences at a Bucky's gas station, which is a large chain in Texas. Scott, who is located between Houston and Dallas, shared that the city of Madisonville, where he resides, is set to lose a significant tax rebate from Bucky's as their deal with the city expires. Under expressed concern about businesses moving out of states due to tax abatements, referencing GM's move from Oklahoma City. The group also discussed the unique features of Bucky's, such as their extensive jerky selection and large size, which is not common in other states.

- **California Gas Station Ban Discussion**

- In the meeting, the team discussed the upcoming ban on gas stations in California by 2035. They also reminisced about the past when Mtbe was used in gas, which led to issues with gas lines and car engines. The conversation then shifted to the topic of cars, with Robbie sharing his experience of owning a 1973 Volvo and the need to use supreme gas to prevent it from knocking. The team also discussed the environmental impact of Mtbe and how it was

eventually phased out due to its polluting effects on groundwater. Towards the end, the team members expressed their interest in Atari and shared their experiences with playing Tempest on arcade machines.

- **Wiring Garage and Studio Discussion**

- Scott discussed the wiring of his sister-in-law's garage and studio, mentioning the installation of 53 duplex outlets and the need for an electrician to replace the old panels in the house. He also mentioned the need to run a wire to the garage and hide it. Robbie and Kevin participated in the conversation, with Robbie asking about wire strippers that can handle smaller wires. Scott suggested a wire stripper that can be set to the desired gauge and has a set screw to prevent cutting the wire too far.

- **Wire Stripping Tools and Techniques**

- In the meeting, the team discussed various tools and techniques for wire stripping, including the use of nail clippers, pocket knives, and Leatherman tools. They also shared personal experiences of using these tools, such as Robbie's encounter with security on a cruise ship. Additionally, they discussed the availability of these tools at surplus stores and the potential for purchasing them at a lower cost. The conversation ended with a discussion about the upcoming SpaceX Starship launch in South Texas.



+1.888.799.9666

©2025 Zoom Communications, Inc.

Visit zoom.com

55 Almaden Blvd