

Notes For SLCC In-Person and Zoom Meeting 5-13-2025

Zoom Meeting Hosted by Kevin

In Attendance at the San Leandro Library, Kevin, Robbie, and Ron

In Attendance at the Zoom Meeting, Don, Bob, Scott, and Mariano

Quick recap

The group discussed various technical issues related to Atari computers, including troubleshooting a non-functioning Atari 600 computer, testing different Atari games and cartridges, and diagnosing a faulty power supply for an Atari 5200. They also shared personal updates, such as Scott's beekeeping experiences and Don's completion of a train route. Additionally, Don and Robbie discussed their recent attendance at a Ham radio club meeting and the availability of Atari club newsletters on the Internet Archive.

Next steps

- Kevin to bring an ST case for Ron at the next meeting.
- Bob to provide Kevin with a 5200 power supply.
- Kevin to email Bob after the meeting regarding the 5200 power supply.
- Kevin to bring his joystick to the next meeting for the flight simulator demonstration.
- Kevin to test the monitor jacks on the two 600 boards that have them installed.
- Mariano to upgrade the Game Station Pro BIOS to version 1.3 for his cousin.

Summary

Technical Issues and Personal Updates

The group meets in a new room at the library, with Kevin, Robbie, and Ron present. They discuss technical issues with audio before moving on to personal updates. Scott mentions getting stung by a bee while mowing and moving his beehives, while Don shares that he finished and uploaded a train route. The group also jokes about the meaning of the SLCC banner visible in their meeting room.

TRS-80 Nybbler Newsletters on Archive

Don and Kevin discuss the early days of Twitter and Don and Robbie's recent attendance at a Ham radio club meeting. They mention that the Atari club newsletters are already available on the Internet Archive, with Kevin having uploaded all the ones for their club along with available software. Don expresses interest in checking if TRS-80 Nybbler newsletters are also on the archive, as he was briefly in charge of those newsletters. Kevin mentions finding some San Leandro Club 3.5-inch disks and plans to go through them after sorting through 8-bit materials.

Bee Biology and Worker Roles

Scott shares information about bee biology and behavior. He explains that only female bees have stingers, while male bees' sole purpose is to mate with the queen. Scott also notes that all worker bees are female, performing various roles such as nursing, guarding, and foraging. He adds that during winter, when resources become scarce, the female bees expel the males from the hive to conserve resources.

Atari 600 RAM Chip Troubleshooting

Kevin shares his experience troubleshooting a non-functioning Atari 600 computer. After extensive testing and component swapping, he discovers that seven out of eight RAM chips were faulty, which prevented the machine from booting. Scott and Bob offer additional insights on diagnosing RAM issues, with Scott sharing a personal anecdote about identifying a faulty RAM chip through observing typo behavior in a word processor.

Atari RAM Expansion and Case Discussion

Kevin discusses a RAM expansion for an Atari computer, which successfully increases the memory to 37,902 bytes. He also mentions having several Atari ST cases, specifically the bottoms, and Kevin offers to provide a case for Ron's damaged 1040 STE. They discuss the differences between various Atari ST models and their case designs, particularly regarding the placement of ports and floppy drive openings.

Atari Games and Cartridge Testing

The group discusses various Atari games and cartridges, testing them on different systems. They explore games like Space Invaders, Galaga, Crystal Castle, Pac-Man, and Logo. Scott explains why some games work on different Atari models, suggesting it might be due to the use of OS functions. The group also examines a cartridge called Hardball, which they describe as a high-tech baseball game from the 1980s. Mariano joins the meeting late, and Robbie mentions skipping a planned raffle for a router.

Atari Games and Hardware Discussion

The group discusses various Atari games and hardware, including Diamond Mine, Gorf, and Moon Patrol. Kevin mentions that Rockland cartridges typically have faded labels. They also talk about the Flight Simulator II, Robbie's first, noting its slow speed and complexity. Mariano brings up a question about different versions of Moon Patrol, with Kevin confirming there are disk and cartridge versions. Scott mentions a modified version of Moon Patrol that uses a two-button joystick. Mariano announces that he is now unemployed and will have more time for Atari-related activities.

Atari 600 and 800 Computer Discussion

Kevin discusses his experience with Atari 600 and 800 computers, mentioning that he has fixed several of them and some have monitor jacks installed. He notes the importance of proper soldering and component placement when dealing with modified systems. Rob also shares that he and Don attended a ham radio meeting where they met Kay Savetz, who is involved with the Internet Archive. Kay

remembered Bob and Kevin, and appreciated Robbie's Atari logo shirt. The group briefly discusses Kay's role at archive.org

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Internet Archive is a non-profit digital library offering free universal access to texts, movies & music, as well as 624 billion archived web pages.

archive.org

and his presentation at the Ham radio club meeting.

Atari 5200 Power Supply Issue

The group discusses technical issues with an Atari 5200 power supply. Kevin explains that after replacing a fuse and capacitor, the power supply outputs 13.6 volts instead of the required 9.3 volts. Bob advises against using this power supply and offers to provide a new one in the box. The group agrees that using the higher voltage could damage the console, and Kevin decides to wait for the replacement or further investigate the other capacitor.