

● Notes For SLCC In-Person and Zoom Meeting 7-1-2025

- Hosted by Kevin
- In Attendance at the San Leandro Library, Kevin, Robbie, and Ron
- In Attendance For The Zoom Meeting, Kevin, Robbie, Richard, Bob, Scott, Don, Ron, and Michael

● Quick recap

- The group discussed various aspects of vintage computers, including demonstrations of portable computers, troubleshooting of hard drive issues, and modifications to hardware components. They explored programming capabilities and gaming experiences on different Atari systems, with members sharing their experiences and recommendations for emulators and control methods. The conversation ended with discussions about upcoming events and displays, including plans for modified computer cases and the placement of monitors to maximize impact at the Vintage Computer Festival.

● Next steps

- Richard to bring additional Atari cartridges to the Vintage Computer Festival.
- Kevin to consider using Bob's idea of placing one 27-inch monitor in the middle of the display at the Vintage Computer Festival.
- Kevin to explore 3D printing options for creating a custom bezel for the 1450 case, based on Scott's suggestion to modify existing designs on Thingiverse.
- Kevin to continue working on fitting drives into the 1450 case with the modified 1050 bezels, potentially using black tape to cover gaps.
- Bob to provide any additional input on single-drive machine configurations for the 1450 case setup.
- Team to prepare and organize equipment for the Vintage Computer Festival display on August 2nd and 3rd at the Computer History Museum in Mountain View.

● Summary

● Portable Computer Ports Demonstration

- Kevin demonstrates a portable computer with a 9-inch amber screen and a floppy drive, which weighs over 20 pounds. The group discusses the various ports on the device, including CGA, parallel, serial, and printer ports. Scott inquires about the specific types of ports, particularly whether they are Centronics or DIN-style, but the details are difficult to discern due to the image quality.

● Atari 600XL Diagnostic Session

- Kevin presents an Atari 600XL computer with some issues, including a non-booting hard drive. He plans to use Spin Rite software to diagnose and potentially fix the hard drive problems. Kevin also showcases Ron's setup, which includes a high-end Sony monitor connected to an Atari 600 via S-Video, displaying Sparta Dos. The Atari 600 has been modified with a custom S-Video output, which Kevin notes is unusual for this model.

● **Vintage Computer Soldering Techniques**

- Scott and Kevin discuss soldering techniques and equipment for working on vintage computers. They share experiences with different soldering iron temperatures, with Scott mentioning he lifted traces on an XL due to using too high heat. They also talk about magnification tools for soldering, including video microscopes and magnifying lamps. Kevin then describes issues with a 10MB Seagate hard drive that needs manual parking, suspecting a corrupted FAT table. Richard joins the call while driving, prompting some lighthearted comments about dedication to attending meetings.

● **AMD Processor and Motherboard Discussion**

- Richard discusses his recent purchase of an AMD Ryzen 9 7950X3D processor and a Gigabyte Aorus X670E Elite motherboard for his computer upgrade. Kevin shares information about issues with ASRock motherboards causing damage to high-end AMD processors due to excessive voltage settings. They discuss the ongoing problem, with ASRock accepting responsibility and offering replacements, though turnaround times can be lengthy. The conversation concludes with both agreeing that Richard's choice of a Gigabyte motherboard should be reliable and avoid these issues.

● **Atari Portable Computer Discussion**

- The group discusses various aspects of vintage computers, particularly focusing on an Amoute portable computer that Robbie has. Richard mentions having video capabilities in the call, which Kevin was unaware of. They talk about the weight and balance of the computer, with Scott inquiring about how it's balanced given the drive placement. Kevin notes that the hard drive might need cleaning and more RAM, while Richard shares information about a device from New Zealand that combines IDE and RAM expansion in one slot. The conversation concludes with a brief discussion about the weight of the Amoute computer, which Don insists on calling "transportable" rather than portable.

● **Atari Programming and Logo Discussion**

- The group discusses programming on an Atari computer, with Richard sharing his experience teaching Logo to kids in a coding camp. Kevin demonstrates turtle graphics using Logo on a well-preserved Atari computer. Michael joins the conversation, catching up with the group and mentioning his garage full of Atari equipment. He expresses interest in attending a future meeting in San Diego and shares that he found an article on Atari Basic, which prompted him to join the call.

● **Atari Emulator Game Exploration**

- The group discusses various retro video games and their experiences with an Atari emulator. Richard mentions he found a collection of games that work on the AA system, but not all have been verified. They explore different games, including Quest for Tires, Pitfall, and Breakout, noting that some work while others have issues. Richard advises deleting the PDF instructions to free up space for more games. The conversation also touches on how some classic games, like Pitfall, have been ported to modern platforms and continue to generate revenue. They briefly discuss control methods for these games on mobile devices.

● **Commodore Display Setup Planning**

- Kevin acknowledges receiving a package from Bob containing various items, including LED boards, keyboards, and sign holders, all of which are working perfectly. The group discusses using a heavy CRT monitor with a Commodore 600 at an upcoming show. Bob suggests placing a 27-inch monitor in the middle of their display to attract attention, an idea that Kevin supports. Richard mentions that he has seen heavy equipment on tables at similar shows before. Kevin agrees to implement Bob's idea of placing a large monitor with a Commodore 1200 in the center of their setup. The group also discusses various cartridges and drives they plan to bring to the event, with Richard offering to bring additional cartridges and Kevin planning to bring four drives for different Commodore models.

● **Vintage Computer Display Bezel Mod**

- Kevin discusses modifications to a 1450 case using 1050 bezels for an upcoming display at the Vintage Computer Festival. He explains that while the modified bezel fits, it creates issues with drive placement. Scott suggests 3D printing a custom bezel based on designs available online to solve the problem. The group also briefly mentions the festival taking place on August 2nd and 3rd at the Computer History Museum in Mountain View.

- *AI-generated content may be inaccurate or misleading. Always check for accuracy.*