●Notes For SLCC Zoom Meeting 8-12-2025

●Hosted by Kevin

●In Attendance, Kevin, Robbie, Bob, Richard, Ron, Scott, Chris, Don, and Marcel

●Quick recap

●The group discussed their recent exhibit's positive reception and various personal updates including travel experiences and hobby projects. They examined and shared information about vintage computer hardware, including unique motherboard designs and historical artifacts. The conversation ended with detailed discussions about home automation systems, smart home devices, and energy management solutions, with participants sharing their experiences and technical insights.

●Next steps

●Kevin: Check if the 1050 box he has belongs to Ron by looking for Ron's name written on the inside flap.
●Kevin and Marcel: Meet the weekend after next to scan the 1450 case with Marcel's high-end scanner.
●Kevin: Add Matthew Hill and Jesse Burns to the email list for Zoom meetings and Google groups.
●Bob: Send Matthew Hill and Jesse Burns' email addresses to Kevin.
●Bob: Complete the conduit wiring installation for the lighting system.
●Richard: Continue working on converting dashboard interfaces from the old style to the new style for home automation.
●Richard: Install the new Switchbot matter lock and keypad with facial recognition.
●Kevin: Ask Marcel about breaking out the tunnel for the cartridge slot into a third piece to make it easier to insert boards.
●Ron: Check if he has Kevin's 1050 box that might be more beat up than his own.
●Marcel: Take measurements and ensure corners are properly done for the 1450 case scan.
●Scott: Perform maintenance and repairs on his leg armor.
●Scott: Build more beehives to collect bees from the Director of Public Works' shed.
●Scott: Plan home automation for his new house.
●Chris: Further investigate the unusual Sinclair Spectrum from Italy with Jerry Ellsworth.
●Kevin: Research more about the unusual 600 XL motherboard with the slider switch.
●Chris: Address the software update issues with Home Assistant.
●Richard: Complete the local connection setup for the water heater in Home Assistant.

●Summary

● Positive Exhibit Feedback and Finds

●The group discussed their recent exhibit, which received positive feedback with 170 likes on Facebook and numerous reactions to each picture. Kevin mentioned finding an extra 1050 box that might belong to Ron, who agreed to check and verify. Robbie thanked Kevin and Bob for setting up the display, which received praise from everyone.

● Personal Updates and Project Discussions

●The group discussed various personal updates, including Robbie's trip to Bisbee, Arizona, and Don's work on a train route project. They also talked about the movie Tombstone and its depiction of a steam train. Ronald mentioned working on organizing his Atari-related items, which he plans to store in the garage. The conversation was informal and covered a mix of personal anecdotes and project updates.

● XE GS Design and Scanning Plans

●The group discussed a Facebook post featuring renderings of an XE GS with two drives, which Ron found interesting due to its aesthetics. They also talked about redesigning the pastel-colored switches on the original case. Robbie shared photos of a historical mining site, which led to a brief discussion about mining techniques. Kevin announced plans to scan the 1450 case with Marcel next weekend, with the goal of creating a 3D model and potentially modifying the cartridge slot to make it easier to install boards.

● Medieval Reenactment Combat Experience

●Scott shared his experience participating in medieval reenactment events, including sword fighting and tournaments. He described the logistics of battles, such as bridge battles and field battles, and mentioned that while most participants engage in friendly combat, occasional friendly fire incidents occur. Scott also mentioned that he injured his thumb during a fight but continued participating after taking ibuprofen and applying wax to his helmet to prevent rust.

● Medieval Armor Maintenance Discussion

●Scott discussed his medieval armor, which he built as a prototype from mild steel in 2010 and has been using since. He explained that he never made a stainless steel version despite planning to, and he currently maintains the armor by waxing it every three years to slow down rust. Scott also shared that he previously wore a titanium chain mail shirt over his body armor, but stopped using it after an ACL injury to save weight. He mentioned seeing some examples of 3D printed armor parts, though he wasn't familiar with 3D printed metal armor.

● Club Activities and Membership Updates

●The group discussed various personal hobbies and activities, with Scott sharing details about his beekeeping and home improvement projects. Bob inquired about adding new members to the club's database, and Kevin agreed to add them to the email list for Zoom meetings. They briefly discussed a gaming center in Oakland that Kevin had previously helped with ST equipment. The conversation touched on the need for more information about potential new members, with Kevin requesting email addresses to send announcements.

● Prototype Showcase and Electrical Projects

●The group discussed various topics, including a shy person at a booth who showed little interest in Chris's prototypes, and Bob's ongoing home electrical project involving wiring and lighting. Chris shared details about a unique Italian Sinclair Spectrum with a built-in tape deck and power supply, and the conversation concluded with a lighthearted comment about Italian electrical work.

● Unique 600XL Motherboard Design

●Kevin shared and discussed an unusual 600XL motherboard with a unique design, including a slider switch and missing video circuitry, which was identified as a Rev. 3 board from Cheleco. The group examined photos and compared it to other boards, noting differences in switch types and manufacturing details, with Richard mentioning a similar board discussed on Atari Age forums. Chris showed a Childco sample case with an empty board designed for connector population, which Kevin found interesting.

● Canceled Project and Automation Demo

●The group discussed a canceled project involving a machine with a promising design that was given to another company to finish, though it never materialized as expected. Chris shared a story about suspicious behavior involving Atari and chip manufacturing commitments. Richard demonstrated a home automation dashboard he created for his daughter, which allows her to control lights, temperature, and other devices in her room remotely.

● Smart Home Integration Technologies

●Richard shared details about his smart home setup, which includes various connected devices for lighting, occupancy sensors, and energy management. He demonstrated how his system integrates different technologies like Matter, Zigbee, and custom programming to control lights, fans, and outdoor features. Scott contributed insights on his previous smart home setup, highlighting the use of Z-Wave and Zigbee devices for lighting and fan control, as well as a creative solution involving a relay for motion-activated lights. Both participants discussed the importance of compatibility and integration when adding new devices to their smart home systems.

● Home Automation Protocols and Challenges

●The group discussed home automation systems, with Richard explaining that 85% of his devices use local control protocols like Matter and Zigbee, while Chris shared his experience with a Florida property where he needed to create the appearance of occupancy. They discussed the challenges of software updates for Home Assistant, with Chris noting that updates could be time-consuming and sometimes fail, while Richard mentioned running a stable version on an x86 architecture. The conversation concluded with Richard showing a new Matter-compatible smart lock with facial recognition capabilities from Switchbot.

● Smart Home Automation Insights

●The group discussed various home automation and smart home devices, with Richard sharing his experience with an energy recovery ventilator (ERV) system that helps exchange air without losing heat or cold. Chris highlighted the flexibility and cost-effectiveness of Home Assistant compared to other closed automation systems, while Kevin mentioned having an ERV installed during a recent home remodel. The conversation concluded with Kevin announcing the next meeting would take place the following week.

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