

# ● Notes For SLCC Zoom Meeting 9-23-2025

- Hosted by Kevin
- In Attendance, Kevin, Robbie, Don, Harry, Ron, Scott, and Bob

## ● 1. General Catch-Up and Introductions

- Robbie mentioned new members and offered computer-related items (floppies, monitor, laptop bag).
- Participants discussed local weather and recent lightning storms.
- Harry Haramis introduced himself, sharing his initial Atari experience and background in internet security software.

## ● 2. Personal Backgrounds and Atari Interest

- Harry shared an extensive history with Atari computers, including growing up in Millbrae and running a BBS.
- He recently began collecting and restoring retro computers, including Atari, Commodore 64, and Apple IIGS.
- Kevin mentioned his collection including various Atari models and software.
- Discussion included nostalgia about different computers' ecosystems and the diversity of early computing platforms internationally.
- Robbie contributed with stories about retro equipment collections and the importance of preserving these systems.

## ● 3. Hardware and Upgrades Discussion

- Harry sought advice on upgrading Atari 1200XL memory; Bob recommended the Veronica card (16 MB RAM) and the Rambo upgrade for compatibility.
- Ronald showed a photos of his Rambo board installation and 32-1 OS cartridge.
- Kevin discussed the 32-1 cartridge's benefits and availability of upgrade kits in Europe.
- The group discussed FujiNet devices for Atari to enable modern networking and software loading.
- Harry talked about SUBCART flash cartridge with stereo Pokey sound emulation, highly praised by the group.

- Kevin and others shared tips on repair and modifications, including soldering, replacing rubber feet on Atari 800 machines, and enhancements like the LumaCode HDMI mod by CopperDragon.
- Participants discussed challenges of restoring vintage hardware, including floppy drives, memory tests, and component degradation over time.

## ● 4. Software and Usage

- Discussion about productivity software on Atari, including Syncalc (spreadsheet), The Last Word (word processor), and running CP/M with WordStar on Indus GTs.
- Mention of FujiNet's capability to run CPM and load software directly from SD cards.
- Exploration of nostalgia around using Atari and retro computers for simple computing without modern distractions.

## ● 5. Other Activities and Updates

- Ron shared experience setting up an ATSC 3.0 DVR to replace cable TV, emphasizing cost benefits and recording capabilities.
- Scott talked about home projects, including installing an exhaust fan in his workshop loft, Ethernet wiring for his home entertainment system, mounting a large TV, and harvesting honey from his beehive.
- Movie and media related discussion included the 4K Ultra HD release of the movie Tron, the new Tron sequel, and HD DVD vs. Blu-ray format war nostalgia.

## ● 6. Troubleshooting and Technical Help

- Robbie mentioned issues with a repaired 386 computer causing floppy drives not to be recognized or system freezing in Windows.
- Kevin and others suggested checking cables, possible bad RAM, and BIOS settings; advised bringing the machine to a future meeting for hands-on troubleshooting.
- Discussion about floppy drive setup, IRQs, and BIOS testing modes.
- Robbie promised to bring the 386 for group assistance at the next meeting.

## ● 7. Community and Future Plans

- Harry expressed interest in attending in-person meetings at San Leandro and continuing engagement with the SLCC-Atari community.
- Plans to support each other with hardware and advice, including ordering needed components in bulk.

- Group camaraderie and sharing of stories maintaining enthusiasm for retro computing.

## ● **Action Items & Follow-Ups**

- Robbie to bring the problematic 386 computer to the next meeting for troubleshooting.
- Kevin to order suitable rubber feet for Atari 800 replacements and possibly order feet for Harry.
- Continued sharing of upgrade knowledge and hardware advice, including memory upgrades and flash cartridges.
- Harry to consider in-person participation in SLCC meetings in the San Leandro area.

## ● **Notable Quotes**

- Harry: "I've been into video games and computers forever," highlighting lifelong dedication to Atari and retro platforms.
- Kevin: "It's just you and the computer, and that's it," emphasizing the simplicity and charm of retro computing.
- Discussion about the LumaCode HDMI mod praised as "freakin' fantastic" and a retro enthusiast's "idol" project.
- This meeting was a lively, technical, and nostalgic conversation supportive of retro computing hobbyists, sharing restoration tips, hardware upgrades, personal stories, and upcoming community participation.