●Notes For SLCC Zoom Meeting 10-14-2025

●Hosted by Kevin

●In Attendance, Kevin, Robbie, Chris, Don, Harry, Bob, and Ron

●Meeting summary

●Quick recap

●The group shared various personal updates and technical experiences, including travel stories, computer hardware issues, and software discussions. They had an extensive conversation about vintage computer hardware upgrades, focusing on memory expansions, disk drive enhancements, and the challenges of importing components from different regions. The conversation ended with discussions about new gaming devices, an examination of an old external hard drive enclosure, and updates on computer history developments.

●Next steps

●Harry to bring the Atari Arcade portable device to the next in-person meeting
●Kevin to bring a hard drive for Ron's external enclosure
●Ron to bring the bottom half of the ST to Kevin at the next library meeting
●Ron to bring spare Atari boards to the next in-person meeting
●Ron to bring the external hard drive enclosure to the next meeting for testing with Robbie's computer
●Bill to upload the October 7th meeting notes to the website
●Harry to test rotating the felt pad in the 810 drive to fix the whining noise

●Summary

● Personal Updates and Tech Issues

●The group discussed various personal updates and experiences, including travel, weather, and technical issues with a computer. Robbie mentioned having a problem with a computer running a game, which Kevin would fix. Kevin shared details about a recent trip to Florida for a business symposium, noting some delays due to the government shutdown affecting air traffic controllers. The conversation also touched on the changing weather conditions and the impact of a snowstorm in Florida.

● Drive Issues and AI Notes

●Harry discussed issues with a drive's speed and noise, which were resolved by adjusting a felt pad. The group also talked about the use of Jolt Cola and a Jaguar-themed rotary controller. Robbie mentioned that notes from their meetings are now being taken using AI, which he and Kevin have to edit and review.

● Vintage Computer Hardware Upgrades

●The group discussed hardware upgrades for vintage computers, with Harry sharing his experience using a RAM expansion and CPM on an Atari. Chris inquired about obtaining a RAM expansion for his Indus, and Harry offered to provide a link to a German manufacturer who produces SRAM and other compatible components. The conversation touched on the historical context of hardware piracy, with Chris mentioning how US hardware like the Happy was sought after in Europe. Robbie confirmed he had sent meeting notes to Bill.

● Vintage Computer Hardware Upgrade Discussion

●The group discussed various hardware upgrades and accessories for vintage computers, focusing on memory expansions and disk drive enhancements. Harry shared details about a PDF listing from a seller known as TF_HH, who offers SRAM chargers and a combined bitwriter and Super Archiver device for the Atari 1050. The discussion included technical details about the bitwriter's capabilities to read every sector in a track and its potential advantages over existing solutions like Happy. The conversation concluded with a brief mention of Chris's experience with customs charges from Digikey for an FPGA board ordered for an Amiga project.

● Surprise Shipping Costs from China

●Chris shared his experience with unexpectedly high shipping costs from China, where a $120 device and import duty resulted in an $80 charge plus a $15 handling fee, questioning how this could be consistent with the reported 30% tariff rate. Harry suggested avoiding major shipping companies like DHL and UPS when importing from China, while Ron noted that AliExpress has started including tariffs in their listed prices to avoid surprises. Don mentioned waiting for a $15 joystick order from Atari for over two months, prompting Kevin to suggest following up with an email to track the order's status.

● New Gaming Console Discussion

●The group discussed the arrival of a new gaming console, with Harry receiving and examining it. They had a detailed conversation about various gaming systems, including the Jaguar, Panther, and Spectrum, with Chris providing historical context about their development and design. The discussion touched on programming challenges and the differences between 8-bit and 16-bit machines, with the group agreeing to bring the new console to the next meeting for further examination.

● Emulated Gaming Device Demo

●The group discussed a new gaming device that resembles a Nintendo Switch but is significantly larger and runs emulation software similar to RetroPie. Harry demonstrated the device's capabilities, including its large screen, SD card slot for expandable storage, and compatibility with various games. The conversation touched on the device's hardware specifications, software

features, and potential use of USB controllers, with Ron suggesting it might have Bluetooth connectivity.

● Retro Gaming Hardware Discussion

●The group discussed various topics related to retro gaming hardware, including the size and capabilities of a portable gaming device, with Kevin noting it was larger than expected but had a nice screen. Ron shared that he had mistakenly identified a broken Amiga 1200 case as an STE case, and planned to bring the Amiga to the next library meeting to test its functionality. The group also discussed the potential for using the device for flight simulators, with Robbie mentioning that Flight Simulator 2 could be run on the device. Ron mentioned he would bring spare computer boards to the next in-person meeting to see if anyone wanted them, and the group briefly discussed the possibility of a raffle for a monitor stand.

● XT/AT Era Hard Drive Discussion

●The group discussed an old external hard drive enclosure that Ron found, which appeared to be from the XT/AT era with a parallel interface. They examined the device's components and connectors, determining it likely used IDE or XT interface rather than SCSI as initially suspected. The conversation then shifted to computer history, with Chris sharing information about a potential new computer history museum in Oakland and a previously unreleased memoir by Gary, which his family is reportedly withholding. The conversation ended with a brief discussion about reconciliation between Joe Decor and Leonard at a recent VCF event.