●Notes For SLCC In-Person and Zoom Meeting 12-2-2025

●Hosted by Kevin

●In Attendance at the Library, Kevin, Robbie, and Garrett

●In Attendance on Zoom, Don, Bob, Scott, Ron, and Chris

●Meeting summary

● Quick recap

●The meeting focused on technical discussions about Atari hardware, including badge distribution, board revisions, and case modifications for different models. The team examined prototype cases, compared operating systems like DOS 2.5 and DOS 3, and discussed engineering challenges related to case design and connector placement. The group also reviewed new hardware developments, including a multi-functional cartridge with enhanced features, and concluded with updates on personal matters including Michael St. Pierre's recovery.

● Next steps

●Kevin: Set up an appointment with the guy that did the scanning to work out all the little problems found so far
●Scott: Scan the DOS 3 manual correction sheet and email it to KLund1100
●Ron: Bring the sub cart to the next meeting to test if it fits into KLund1100's updated cart tunnel
●Kevin: Put the link for the sub cart in the notes for Chris and Scott to look at
●Chris: Bring the Atari CD-ROM drive to the San Leandro Meeting to see if they can get it working
●Kevin: Send a kind email to Michael St. Pierre

● Summary

● Atari Board Design and Distribution

●Kevin discussed the creation and distribution of badges, noting that many people who expressed interest disappeared after receiving them. They also talked about various Atari boards, including a 1450 XL board, and mentioned receiving components from Bob. Kevin examined different board revisions

and cases, observing color differences and noting that some boards had been modified with additional components. They also discussed a catalog shot featuring an early case designed to fit a 1200 board.

- ● Prototype Case Comparison and Testing

●The team compared two prototype cases, noting differences in resistor values, connector traces, and serial numbers. They discussed the fit of third-party cartridges, with Kevin explaining that the 1450 case was designed to be removable for easier motherboard access, unlike the solid 1450 case. The group also examined audio output differences between the prototypes, with Scott testing the sound quality. Kevin mentioned needing to schedule an appointment to finalize the 3D scanning of the case due to personal circumstances.

- ● Technical Troubleshooting and Device Performance

●The meeting experienced technical difficulties due to Kevin's unstable internet connection, which was eventually resolved. Don and Scott noted that Kevin's video kept freezing, but they managed to continue the discussion. Kevin mentioned plans to visit a location later in the week and discussed battery and wiring issues related to a device, suggesting that connecting the 1450s would improve performance. The conversation briefly veered into a personal anecdote about transportation at the airport, but the main focus remained on technical troubleshooting.

- ● Early Operating Systems Discussion

●The group discussed the differences between various operating systems, particularly focusing on DOS 2.5 and DOS 3. They talked about the limitations of early systems, including the 1K block sizes and the Basic bug in the 800XL that added extra bytes to files. Kevin shared his experience with a TSR program that automatically saved his work every half hour, though Scott questioned whether it was saving in a compatible file format. They also briefly mentioned the Rambo XL upgrade and the special commands in the DOS 3 manual for the 1450XLD.

- ● Atari DOS 3 Technical Discussion

●Scott and Kevin discussed the technical details of Atari DOS 3, including its different versions and compatibility issues with large files. They examined a manual with corrections for earlier versions and noted the unique formatting requirements for the 1450XL's double-sided disks. The conversation also touched on the differences between the 1450XL and 815 models, as well as the process of typing in programs from magazines. Finally, they admired an engineering sample of a 1450XL, discussing its features and the story of how it was acquired.

- ● Engineering Challenges in Case Design

●The group discussed engineering challenges related to case design, including the need to modify standoff positions and connector placement for a 4K television. They explored the possibility of creating a slide-in piece for different board configurations, including the potential to accommodate an 800 or 1050 board. The conversation also touched on historical aspects of speech chips, with Kevin sharing his collection of vintage speech processors and discussing a potential YouTube project featuring different speech chips from the Atari, Votrax, and General Instruments.

- ● New Sub Cart Features Discussion

●Ron shared details about a new Sub Cart he received, which is similar to an AVG cart but with more memory and additional features like Side 2 emulation, PDM audio support, and compatibility with various systems. Chris and Kevin expressed interest in seeing how the cart fits into Kevin's updated cart tunnel, as it is taller and wider than standard cartridges. Ron agreed to bring the cart to the next meeting for testing.

- ● Retro Computing Hardware Challenges

●The group discussed various retro computing hardware, including a new cartridge that combines multiple features and its high price, as well as challenges with tariffs and international shipping. Ron shared his experience with a recent purchase, noting the lack of tariffs, while others mentioned issues with unclear tariff charges and shipping methods. Chris and Kevin discussed rare items like CD-ROM drives and accelerators for the Mega ST, highlighting their historical significance and potential uses. Don shared his experience with a new joystick, mentioning its Bluetooth connectivity issues and unique features. The conversation ended with an update on Michael St. Pierre's recovery from a heart attack, prompting Kevin to send him a kind email.

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