

- **Notes For SLCC In-Person and Zoom Meeting, 1-6-2026**

Hosted by Kevin,

In Attendance at the Library, Kevin, Robbie, Harry

In Attendance at the Zoom Meeting, Kevin, Robbie, John, Scott, Don, Richard Chennault, Ron, Mariano, Lenore, and Richard Diaz

- **Meeting summary**

- **Quick recap**

- The meeting began with personal discussions about living situations and technical issues before transitioning into detailed conversations about computer hardware upgrades and modifications, including discussions about Atari systems and operating systems. The group explored various technical projects including voice chips, Subcards, and memory upgrades, with members sharing their experiences and plans for testing and implementation. The conversation ended with discussions about upcoming events, including the Midwest Gaming Classic, and plans for future hardware demonstrations at the next club meeting.

- **Next steps**

- [Richard Chennault: Bring Atari TT with add-ons to Kevin's place for memory upgrade installation and troubleshooting; coordinate with Kevin for a suitable date.](#)
- [Kevin: Provide coaching and guidance to Richard Chennault on installing memory and upgrades for the Atari TT when Richard brings it over.](#)
- [Kevin: Contact TMP \(via Discord\) to ask where to currently purchase the Subcart/AVG cart in the U.S. \(due to shipping issues with MISC Retro and Retro Lemon\).](#)
- [John: Follow up with group members \(offline\) to see if anyone can prepare a hardware demo/presentation for an upcoming online meeting within the next 3 months.](#)
- [Lenore: Await shipment of new voice chip from eBay seller for testing and provide updates to the group once received.](#)
- [Kevin: Email John with any updates or decisions about possible hardware demo participation.](#)

- **Summary.**

- **Atari Hardware Upgrade Discussion**

- The group discussed various computer hardware and upgrades, with Richard Chennault planning to meet Kevin to work on upgrading his Atari TT with new memory modules and additional components. Kevin shared his acquisition of a transputer board for his Mega ST, which can support up to 12 processors and potentially run AI models using C++ and Llama CPP. The conversation also touched on the performance comparisons between the Atari TT and Falcon machines, with the TT being noted for its true 32-bit bus.

- **Atari 1200 Upgrade Discussion**

- The group discussed upgrading an Atari 1200 with a 32-in-1 operating system chip, which Kevin explained could be used in any computer but requires additional modifications for the 1200. They discussed various operating systems that could be loaded onto the chip, including APE and Warp Plus, and Scott shared his experience using 3D-printed thumb tabs to access the SD card in his 800XL. The conversation concluded with a discussion about whether microSD cards could be used in the Incoognito device, though no definitive answer was given.

- **Project Updates and Chip Reprogramming**

- The group discussed updates on various projects, including minor adjustments to cases and components, such as moving standoffs and updating port lettering. They planned to reprogram a 32 and 1 operating system chip, selecting a custom build from an Atariage thread for testing on real hardware. Harry agreed to bring his programmer to erase and reprogram the chip, with Lenore confirming she had backed up the necessary files. Additionally, there was a brief mention of a new voice chip, but no further details were provided.

- **SC01 Speech Chip Development**

- The group discussed the development of a compatible speech chip for the SC01, with Lenore mentioning that a seller had contacted her about sending a chip for testing, though no specific ship date was provided. Kevin explained that the voice chip in question was part of the 1400 series, which was never released to the public, and described its capabilities, including being programmable in BASIC. The conversation then shifted to testing the compatibility of the chip, with Kevin successfully demonstrating its functionality and discussing various operating systems that could be used with it.

- **Midwest Gaming Classic Italian Showcase**

- The group discussed the Midwest Gaming Classic, a 25-year-old convention in Milwaukee that will host its first Italian gaming exhibition. John shared details about the event's history, including past appearances by Atari and Activision, and mentioned that the Suburban Chicago Italians will be in the Community Zone with four tables, planning to showcase games from 1976-1996. The group also briefly discussed power supply issues, with John warning against using certain older models that could emit "magic smoke."

- **Hardware Demo Planning Discussion**

- John proposed the idea of organizing a hardware demo for the next club meeting in three months, emphasizing the need for variety in presentations. Richard Chennault expressed interest in demonstrating his TT project, pending its completion and setup, while Kevin mentioned the possibility of contributing but could not commit. The group discussed the benefits and limitations of using Pico carts and debuggers for testing and debugging, with Kevin sharing his experience using different versions of debugging tools.

- **Atari Subcard Features Overview**

- Kevin discussed the features and capabilities of a Subcart, highlighting its compatibility with various Atari models and its ability to replace multiple expansion cards. He explained that the Subcart offers extensive functionality, including ATR support, Pokey emulation, and OS slots, making it a versatile and convenient option for Atari enthusiasts. Richard Chennault expressed interest in obtaining a Subcart, and Kevin offered to provide more information about where to purchase one.

#### Retro Gaming Device Compatibility Solutions

The group discussed compatibility and cable length issues for a retro gaming device, with Kevin explaining that the 1200XL model lacks PBI functionality and suggesting alternative solutions like using an SIO cable extension. Scott shared his experience using RAM disks for software development, while the conversation concluded with a discussion about memory upgrades, where Kevin noted that while 1MB RAM might seem impressive for an 8-bit machine, the AVG cart with 512K RAM could be a more cost-effective alternative.

#### Atari Collection Acquisition Discussion

- Kevin shared his recent acquisition of an Atari collection, including an ATR8000 with dual 5.25-inch drives, original manuals, and CPM software. The group discussed the high cost of similar items on Retro Lemon and other platforms, with prices in pounds being significantly higher than in euros. They considered pooling resources to purchase the drives from Europe, where they were more affordable.