

- **Notes For SLCC Zoom Meeting 1-20-2026**

- Hosted by Kevin

- In Attendance:

- **Meeting summary**

- **Quick recap**

- The meeting focused on updates and discussions among members of a vintage computer enthusiasts group, including conversations about health issues, hardware modifications, and ongoing projects. Michael shared his plans to convert an Atari 5200 console into a fully functional Atari 800 computer, complete with modern accessories like a FujiNet adapter and enhanced video capabilities. Harry and others discussed recent hardware acquisitions and modifications, including the use of the Sophia chip for improved video output on various systems. The group also explored the benefits of 3D printing for creating custom hardware enclosures and shared experiences with vintage computer repairs and modern emulators. Additionally, members discussed the challenges of sourcing parts and the impact of supply chain issues on their projects.

- **Next steps**

- [Kevin : Add the 1983 newsletters sent by Tom to the repository.](#)

- [Bill: Put a link to the 1983 newsletters on the website.](#)

- [Michael: Once ready, produce at least 5 boards for the 5200-to-Atari 8-bit computer adapter project and coordinate with interested parties \(including Harry and KLund1100\) for participation/interest in receiving a board.](#)

- **Summary**

- **Group Updates and Welcome Backs**

- The meeting began with a health update from Robbie, who mentioned feeling better despite still being sick. The group welcomed several new and returning members, including Tom, who shared his history with the group from the early 1980s. They also discussed the recent revival of the Compute Gazette magazine, which focuses on 6802/6502 computers. The group welcomed back Tom Bennett, who was involved with the group in the 1980s.

- **Personal Updates and Atari Finds**

- The group discussed several personal updates, including Bill's work on uploading newsletters to the website and [archive.org](#), and Ron shared that he completed a two-year project of cleaning out his storage unit and found an Atari Vox adapter, which Harry explained is a valuable device for enhanced sound and voice capabilities in Atari systems. The conversation ended with Michael and others discussing the adapter's features and rarity in the current market.

- **Atari and Vectrex Discussion**

- The group discussed various Atari-related items, including a new Atari Vox device that Harry described as having built-in save capabilities and supporting high scores for compatible games. Michael shared that he had a Vectrex console, which Harry noted could now sell for \$600-700, and the conversation led to a discussion about the Vectrex's value and rarity. Kirk, who had been absent for some time due to eldercare responsibilities, joined the meeting and

expressed his appreciation for the group's continued activity, mentioning his past interest in vector graphics arcade games.

- **Atari Emulation and Preservation Discussion**
- The group discussed retro computing and gaming, focusing on Atari systems and emulators. Kevin recommended Altera emulator, which runs on Windows and Linux, and suggested Atari Mania as a resource for software and documentation. They discussed the legality of downloading and using old software, noting that while some games are still being developed, most is abandonware. The conversation touched on companies' attitudes towards preserving old software, with Apple and Nintendo being particularly restrictive, while Atari and other companies are more open to preservation efforts.
- **Atari 800 Sophia Chip Installation**
- The group discussed the installation of the Sophia chip in an Atari 800, with Harry describing the challenges of fitting it into the system and the modifications he had to make. They explored the capabilities of the Sophia chip, which provides a DVI output for improved graphics, and discussed the benefits of using it for modern displays. Kevin introduced the FujiNet adapter, a versatile device that offers features like local storage, Wi-Fi, Bluetooth, and the ability to connect to the internet and play multiplayer games across different platforms.
- **Atari 800 Internet Connectivity Discussion**
- The group discussed the FujiNet, a device that allows Atari 800 users to connect their consoles to the internet and download games. They explored its capabilities and shared tips for getting started, including using online tutorials and emulators. Tom shared his grandson's interest in playing Atari games. Harry showed a modified Atari 800 with a cut to accommodate the Sophia2, and the group discussed the technical details of the modification.
- **Atari Modding and Component Mounting**
- Harry and Kevin discussed mounting options for a computer component, with Kevin suggesting using the empty space on the right side of the Atari case or a 3D printed panel. Scott recommended putting the component on the panel for reversibility. The group also talked about modifying an Atari 800XL, with Michael mentioning a YouTube video about restoring a damaged console. Scott shared his plans to modify the power light and incognito functionality on his Atari. The conversation concluded with a brief discussion about 3D printing, with Scott and Michael recommending a Bambu printer to Harry.
- **3D Printing Success Stories**
- The group discussed 3D printing experiences, with Scott sharing his success with Elegoo filament after previous issues with another brand. Michael shared his experience with the Bambu H2S printer, noting its enclosed design and quality of prints. Kevin showcased an impressive 3D-printed Atari XE laptop project, which included various modifications and custom parts, and the group expressed admiration for the craftsmanship and design.
- **Vintage Computer Repair Challenges**
- The group discussed a video showing someone using a larger printer to create a single piece of a case, which was previously broken into two pieces due to equipment limitations. Richard shared that he had been busy with work and

home projects, while Scott mentioned reading about someone successfully repairing an Altair 8800 computer that had never worked properly since its initial assembly. The conversation concluded with a discussion about the challenges of repairing vintage computers like the Altair, with Kevin noting that modern equivalents using Raspberry Pi are now available.

- **Atari 5200 Computer Conversion Project**
- Michael presented his project to convert an Atari 5200 console into a full-featured Atari computer, including features like a Pico cart, FujiNet, 1088K memory, and external PS2 keyboard support. Harry and Kevin expressed interest in supporting the project, with Harry offering to be one of the first five buyers. The discussion covered the technical aspects of the conversion, including the use of a UGV for video output and addressing overscan issues. The group also discussed alternative solutions like the Lumicode adapter and the advantages of the Sophia device for video output.