

San Leandro Computer Club

Meeting summary: February 24, 2026

Attendance: Kevin, Scott, Harry, Richard, Richard Chennault, Richard Diaz

Quick recap

The meeting focused on various technical discussions and updates related to retro computing projects and repairs. Participants shared experiences with repairing and upgrading vintage computers, including memory upgrades, cleaning boards, and addressing issues with RAM chips and video corruption. Richard Diaz and Kevin discussed challenges with an Atari TT computer, while Scott sought help with a RAM test and memory upgrade for an Atari 130XE. Harry shared progress on installing HDMI mods in 130XE and 1200XL computers, and Richard Chennault provided updates on his ongoing work with Altera and test suites. The group also discussed the discovery of a rare Apple Lisa computer with original Twiggy drives, which Richard Diaz helped connect to the right community for preservation. The conversation ended with participants agreeing to follow up on their respective projects and share updates at the next meeting.

Next steps

- [Scott: Look for a DRAM tester for ZX Spectrum 64/retro computers on eBay or AliExpress.](#)
- [Harry: Check out the differences between the new C64 Dead Test Max Switch, Dead Test, and test cartridge, and report findings to Kevin.](#)
- [Richard Diaz: Check the revision of the TT motherboard and report back.](#)
- [Harry: Find and send information/post about the meaning of the "O" symbols in the extended RAM test 0.22.0 to Scott via the SLCC list.](#)
- [Kevin: Try the video card upgrade on Richard Chennault's TT and report results.](#)
- [Kevin: Replace the fan in Richard Chennault's TT power supply.](#)
- [Scott: Continue troubleshooting RAM issues on the Atari 800 \(including checking for bent pins, reseating chips, and testing with known-good RAM\), and update the group next week.](#)

Summary

Failed Project Recovery Discussion

The group discussed about RAM testers, with Kevin sharing where he got his from. Scott described a memory upgrade he did on a computer board, which involved cleaning the sockets and reinserting chips. Harry proudly shared that he installed HDMI Lumicode mods in two computers, using a temporary mounting method.

Vintage Computer Modification Techniques

Harry discussed modifying a 1200XL computer by drilling a hole in the case to mount an RF connection, which he carefully executed. Scott suggested using a 2-PIN connector for a removable modification, and Harry mentioned using JNC connectors on another model. The group also discussed a historical modification from the 1980s involving a "freezer button" for cold boots, and Ronald shared his experience with adding a toggle switch for right protect on his 1050s.

Atari 1050 Disk Drive Solutions

The group discussed their experiences with Atari 1050 disk drives and floppy disks, including modifying drives with switches for write protection and using various tools for punching holes in disks. Harry shared his recent experience with a faulty 1050 drive that corrupted several original game disks, leading him to seek solutions like using Super Archiver or the write protect switch to preserve the remaining pristine copies. The conversation concluded with Harry mentioning his intention to purchase a Commodore 64, prompted by Kevin's earlier comment.

Modern Hardware and Vintage Tech

Harry shared updates about new hardware acquisitions, including a DES test max switch that allows testing of all 64K of a C64, and a C64 Teens ROM flashcart with Ethernet and NFC capabilities. Richard Diaz discussed his recent upgrade to Wi-Fi 7 using Ubiquiti access points and a 5G fiber internet connection, which he noted was surprisingly affordable. The group also discussed their experiences with early computer modems, with Harry mentioning he still has his original 1200 baud modem, and the conversation concluded with a brief discussion about Atari TT computers.

Atari TT RAM Compatibility Issues

The group discussed issues with memory upgrades on an Atari TT computer, where new RAM modules did not work with the motherboard despite being tested in other systems. Richard Diaz confirmed that his original Atari RAM worked fine, suggesting compatibility problems with the early revision motherboard. The discussion concluded with plans to explore VME adapter upgrades for better graphics capabilities and a modern computer setup, though Kevin mentioned he was currently focused on garage organization before returning to his transputer project.

Atari RAM Chip Repair Discussion

The group discussed troubleshooting a damaged RAM chip in an Atari 800XL, with Scott discovering a bent pin that was causing the system to fail. Kevin suggested swapping the chip with another machine to verify the issue, and Scott confirmed the problem was resolved once the pin was bent back into place. The conversation also covered Richard Chennault's plans to upgrade his Atari TT with a net USB device and SCSI to IDE adapter, and the group discussed a canceled Atari 800XL resurrection project that was supposed to include HDMI output and real chips.

Vintage Computer Restoration Updates

Richard Diaz shared a story about helping a man who unknowingly owned a rare and valuable Apple Lisa computer with Twiggy drives, connecting him with the Vintage Computer Festival board members for proper preservation. Kevin inspected Richard Chennault's power supply and found it in good condition except for a problematic switch, while Chennault reported progress on his test suite implementation for an Altera project. Scott discussed issues with an extended RAM test on his Atari system, which showed inconsistent results with 13 banks detected instead of the expected 16, leading to a suggestion to check for solder joint problems and potentially invest in a RAM tester.