

## Notes For SLCC-Atari in person and Zoom meeting 3/3/26

- In Attendance at the San Leandro Library, Kevin, Robbie, Harry, and Ron
- In Attendance For The Zoom Meeting, Kevin, Robbie, Ron, Harry, Richard C., Scott, Mariano, and Bob

### Meeting summary

#### Quick recap

- The meeting focused on Atari computer repair and discussions among club members. Kevin demonstrated repairing a 1050 floppy drive by reattaching a washer that had fallen off during disassembly, while also showing his Commodore 64 setup with various diagnostic and enhancement cards including an HDMI output mod and a music-playing flash card. Mariano shared his progress on writing a Dino game in assembly language, which he described as the most complex assembly work he had done, currently about 25% complete with music integration. The group discussed various hardware topics including communication port issues with SIO-to-USB adapters, Atari upgrades, and Commodore equipment, with members sharing tips and experiences about repairing and modifying vintage computers.
- **Next steps**
- [Richard: Forward the email about cleaning headers to Kevin.](#)
- [Kevin: Review the forwarded email from Richard regarding cleaning headers for the Atari project.](#)
- [Richard: Continue to wait for and potentially install the transputer board and memory extension for the Atari TT when they arrive, and test functionality.](#)
- [Scott: Look up the chip marked LS151 \(or LG151\) to identify its function for the upgrade board.](#)
- **Summary**
- **Device Malfunction and USB Issues**
- Kevin and Mariano discussed a technical issue involving loose screws and a nut in a device, which was causing it to malfunction. They also addressed problems with communication ports not being recognized by the software on a Windows 10 PC, despite being detected in the device manager. Kevin suggested that Harry might be able to resolve the issue with the USB devices.
- **Dino Game Development Progress**
- Mariano shared his progress on writing a Dino game in Assembler, expressing happiness with the current version, which includes music. Kevin and Mariano discussed the complexity of the project and the fun involved in its development. Richard joined the conversation, mentioning his busy schedule and gratitude for time to work on Atari projects. Kevin sought help from a knowledgeable individual in the Bay Area to advance his own project.
- **Atari Component Discussion and Updates**

- Richard and Kevin discussed various Atari-related components, including a blue SCSI card compatible with the TT and ST, a transputer for video card issues, and a memory extension. Richard mentioned receiving a long email thread about an order and shared information about a backpack plan for the SCSI card, which Kevin found useful. They also talked about a transfuser for the Atari, which Richard is waiting to receive from the UK. Both expressed interest in testing and potentially using these components to address issues with their systems.
- **Atari Retro Computing Restoration**
- Kevin shared his experience of purchasing Atari Falcon and Mega STE for relatively low prices in 1998, and mentioned a modern project of building a new Falcon computer with updated features. He also described fixing an early production model of the Atari 1050 floppy drive, which had unique internal configuration and required reassembly. The group briefly discussed an original Atari disc containing games like blackjack, poker, and solitaire.
- **Motherboard Repair and Debugging**
- The group discussed the repair of a 600XL motherboard, with Kevin explaining that he had collected several dead boards and could build a new one using components from them. They encountered some issues with washers falling out during assembly, which Scott and others helped troubleshoot. Scott also mentioned that he had voted in the recent election and was working on debugging a system, including trying to identify mystery ICs from an old Motorola catalog.
- **Commodore Drive Disassembly Challenges**
- The group discussed issues with disassembling a 1050 drive, noting differences in screw configurations between older and newer models. Kevin encountered problems with a 6-year-old drive that initially wouldn't boot, which was eventually resolved by enabling software Bluetooth settings. The conversation concluded with a discussion about Commodore drives and power supplies, including a new dual-connector power supply made by a Polish manufacturer that can accommodate both Commodore and 1541 drives.
- **Electronic Device Testing and Repairs**
- The group discussed the condition and testing of various electronic devices, including a cat-related item and a disk of the month. They also talked about a method for painting and caring for electronic components using a humid environment and peroxide solution. Don joined the meeting and was greeted by the group. The conversation concluded with plans to attempt fixing an SIO to PC cable.
- **Technical Testing and Hardware Setup**
- Kevin and Mariano discussed technical issues related to testing and hardware setup, including the use of various cables and a custom-built project. Kevin mentioned installing an HD64 and using an RF cam for connectivity, noting that the setup worked well but required occasional maintenance. They considered acquiring another camera for further testing, but no final decision was made.
- **Commodore 64 Accessory Demonstrations**

- Kevin demonstrated several Commodore 64 accessories, including a memory test cart with HDMI output and a diagnostic cart that tests ports and chips. He showed a modern flashcard project called TT run that plays SID files, which are C64 MIDI files. The discussion included nostalgia about fast loading cartridges like the Epic and JiffyDOS, which significantly reduced load times for games.
- **Retro Computing Projects and Demonstrations**
- The group discussed various retro computing topics, including Kevin's demonstration of a device that writes NFC cards for game cartridges, and Mariano's progress on a Commodore 64 game project that includes assembly language programming and music integration. They also shared and discussed vintage computing books and hardware, including Scott's collection of TTL data books and various SIO to USB cables.