

Notes For SLCC-Atari Zoom Meeting 3/31/26

Hosted by Kevin

In Attendance, Kevin, Robbie, Don, Bob, Harry, Scott, and Richard Diaz

The meeting was a casual gathering where participants discussed various retro computing topics and shared updates on their projects. Key discussions included Kevin's new FujiNet 1.7 purchase and the significant price increases in the market, with Future Vision Research now charging \$119 for the device. Richard shared his recent acquisition of three Apple IIGS computers with different accelerators, including an Apple Squeezer board. Harry demonstrated his Zoom Floppy device, which can quickly copy Commodore 64 disks, and showed off his new Commodore 64 Ultimate machine. Don provided an update on his railway project, mentioning ongoing tests and adjustments. Scott discussed his beekeeping activities, including splitting hives and dealing with a potential sewer leak in his yard. The group also talked about upcoming plans for an in-person meeting at the library in San Leandro, where Robbie mentioned bringing an 800XL with a monitor cable issue.

Next steps

- Kevin: Hold onto the mechanical/flightmaster case, look for a 386 or 486 board, and assemble it for Robbie.
- Richard: Send an email to the vendor regarding missing t-shirts from his recent order.
- Harry: Bring the raffle prize (Pico cart with added goodies) to the in-person meeting next week.
- Scott: Dig down to the sewer line in the bee field, cut and cap it, and lower/bury the clean-out to resolve the sewer leak issue (timing: before or after upcoming rain, as decided by Scott).
- Kevin: Bring little screen, 130 (computer), power supply, and joystick to next week's in-person meeting.
- Robbie: Bring 800XL with the monitor cable that doesn't fit to next week's in-person meeting for review.

Summary

Retro Computing Updates and Demonstrations

- The group discussed various retro computing topics, including a new Commodore 64 "Founders Edition" that Richard received, which features gold keys and RGB lighting. Harry demonstrated a "Zoom Floppy" device that can copy Commodore 64 disks in about 10 seconds, significantly faster than traditional methods. Kevin showed off a new Happy 1050 upgrade board that provides plug-and-play functionality for the 1050 drive. Don provided an update on his railway project, mentioning he continues to find and fix issues in the 300-mile track system, including texture errors and track placement adjustments.

Artemis II Launch Discussion

- The group discussed the upcoming Artemis II launch scheduled for 5:24 PM Eastern Time, clarifying that it would be during daylight hours at Cape Canaveral

despite initial confusion about a nighttime launch. Robbie mentioned a novelty item on the waitlist for the launch, while Harry announced he would be providing a raffle prize for the next in-person meeting. Bob shared an update about fixing his lawnmower after it encountered an issue, though the exact cause of the problem remained unclear.

Beekeeping and Tech Updates

- Scott discussed his recent beekeeping activities, including splitting two top-bar hives in an attempt to create new queens. He explained the process and timeline for determining the success of the hive splits, which could take up to three weeks. Scott also mentioned a sewer leak in his yard that he plans to fix by cutting and capping the sewer line. Richard shared updates on his Apple IIGS computers, including the successful installation of accelerators and an emulator board.

FujiNet Device Pricing Discussion

- The group discussed FujiNet devices, with Kevin sharing his recent purchase of a version 1.7 FujiNet for \$80, significantly higher than previous prices. They examined pricing differences across various vendors, with FVResearch.com now selling the Atari version for \$119 and the Apple version for \$129. The discussion included details about different FujiNet models, including a professional version with a metal case from Lotharek that costs around \$105. The conversation concluded with plans for next week's meeting where members will bring various computer equipment including a Pico card, 130 system, and an 800XL with monitor issues.