

Notes For SLCC-Atari Zoom Meeting 4/28/26

Hosted by Kevin

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

Meeting summary

Quick recap

The meeting focused on various computer hardware topics, with Richard sharing details about his new Retro Chip Tester Pro 3D print project, including its extensive testing capabilities and assembly progress. The group discussed the recently released Commodore 64C with LED functionality, with Harry and other's sharing their experiences with the new model. Scott provided an extensive account of his challenging driving experiences in Mexico, including car maintenance issues and local traffic customs. The conversation also covered various computer hardware topics including the 1090 expansion port for Atari computers and the Spiffy patch for the C64 Ultimate. The conversation ended with plans for an in-person meeting the following week at the library.

Next steps

Richard

- Continue assembling and sourcing needed parts for the chip tester, including ordering required spacers and other components.

Robbie

- Bring the 1050 Happy drive (and possibly other items) to the in-person meeting next week for the group/raffle.

Collaboration

- Kevin and Bob: Meet in person next week to work on the 386 project (rescheduled from this week due to bob1200XL's schedule).
- Group: Schedule and attend the in-person meeting at the library next week.

Notes For SLCC-Atari Zoom Meeting 4/28/26

Summary

Chip Tester Project Demonstration

Richard demonstrated his new chip tester project, which he built and is now 3D printing a case for. He explained that the tester is the expensive Pro version with 40 different add-on options for testing various components. Richard discussed his decision to purchase a pre-made label rather than 3D printing it, noting that while multicolor printing capabilities are limited, the \$19 cost made it worthwhile. He also mentioned ordering 10 PCB boards at once to get a better price, though the total cost for all components would be around \$400.

New Chip Testing Device Discussion

Richard discussed a new chip testing device he acquired, which can test various custom chips and copy ROMs to an SD card. He noted that while the device is capable of writing most ROMs, he hasn't fully tested its functionality yet. The group also had a casual conversation about sea lions at Pier 39 and Irish coffee at Buena Vista Cafe, with Scott sharing his experience of having five Irish coffees there.

AI Legal Dispute Discussion

The group discussed an email that Robbie had sent out last week inviting people to a meeting, with some participants confirming they received it. The conversation then shifted to topics including the Elon Musk vs Sam Altman legal dispute over AI, with Scott explaining Musk's argument about

OpenAI's non-profit status. The conversation ended with casual discussions about pets and technology, including Richard mentioning the release of a new Commodore 64C and Harry setting up a device similar to Richard's gold one.

Commodore 64C and 7800 Discussion

Notes For SLCC-Atari Zoom Meeting 4/28/26

The group discussed the new Commodore 64C retro computer, including its pricing options and different case designs. Richard and Harry shared their experiences with purchasing the device, with Richard noting he paid less than the current \$499 price due to a pre-order discount. The discussion also touched on a Dragonfly multi-cart for the 7800 system that Harry had acquired, which works with the 7800 Plus model and features an SD card interface with a built-in screen and buttons.

SpaceX Launch Updates Discussion

Harry discussed his experience setting up and flashing software on an Altera FPGA device, which took only two seconds after a lengthy installation process. The group then shifted to discussing upcoming SpaceX launches, with Scott explaining that the Falcon Heavy launch was scheduled for the following morning in Florida and would feature simultaneous side booster landings. Scott also provided details about the upcoming Starship launch planned for May, which would use new launchpad and engines, and clarified that Starship is intended for Mars missions, including plans for booster landings in the ocean before attempting catches.

Space Refueling and Supersonic Travel

Scott explained the process of refueling in space, noting that it would require multiple launches and the deployment of an orbiting tanker before humans could travel to Mars or the Moon. He mentioned that NASA's plans have shifted focus to the Moon and that the Gateway project may have been dropped, with the timeline for Mars travel pushed to 2028. The group also discussed supersonic air travel, with Kevin sharing information about a recent Concorde flight and the upcoming Boom supersonic aircraft, which is expected to carry 60-80 passengers.

Commodore 64 Patch Discussion

The group discussed a Commodore 64 patch that adds various functionality including hotkeys, home directory access, and joystick port switching.

Notes For SLCC-Atari Zoom Meeting 4/28/26

Harry explained that the patch allows users to access the Ultimate menu through a hotkey instead of using the multi-function button, and provides

features like Commodore copy-paste commands and easier navigation. Richard mentioned he needs to install the patch but has been busy with other

projects. The conversation also touched on the supersonic transport project and California's high-speed rail project, which ran over budget. The

conversation ended with plans for an in-person meeting the following week, where Robbie threatened to bring his 1050 Happy as a joke.

1090 Expansion Port Discussion

The group discussed a 1090 expansion port for the 800XL computer, which allows for additional functionality including 64K RAM and 80-column

support. Kevin explained that the port connects to the back of the 800XL and supports several expansion cards, similar to the TI-994A's expansion

system. The discussion included details about a large-scale vintage computer setup seen at the Vintage Computer Festival Southern California, which

spanned approximately 8 feet across multiple tables and shelves.

PCB Manufacturing and Electronics Discussion

The group discussed PCB manufacturing techniques, with Kevin describing a colleague's custom PCB milling machine that uses copper plates with

wood underneath. They also talked about vintage electronics, including Scott's mention of surplus equipment auctions at the University of Texas in

Austin and Kevin's reference to a Star Trek episode where a circuit board was recreated with tube components. The conversation concluded with a

discussion about Star Trek episodes, particularly focusing on the Gary 7 story and how it was originally intended to be part of a different two-part

episode.

Star Trek and Random Discussions

The group discussed various topics including Star Trek episodes, particularly focusing on the character "Gary 7 of 9" and its connection to the number

Notes For SLCC-Atari Zoom Meeting 4/28/26

7 across different series. They also talked about laundry products, including Tide pods and washing machine pellets, and a bathtub toy that spins and

reveals a doll. The conversation ended with a lighthearted discussion about a raffle prize involving Harry's travel cart once he retires.

Driving Experiences in Mexico Discussion

The group discussed Kevin's recent trip to Oaxaca, Mexico, where he observed minimal traffic laws and poor road conditions. Scott shared his own

experiences driving in Mexico, including multiple car issues including brake problems and a tow incident. The conversation concluded with the group

confirming plans for an in-person meeting the following week at the library.