

Meeting assets for SLCC-Atari Zoom Meeting 5/12/26 7pm are ready!

Meeting summary

Quick recap

Don shared his progress on a TrainZ simulation project featuring a detailed recreation of a rail route from Jamestown to Angels Camp, which he had enhanced with additional features and graphics. The group discussed gaming history, including Leisure Suit Larry and Atari 8-bit computer systems, with Kevin mentioning his recent reading of a book about Commodore's history. Harry presented his new "Meatloaf Inside" project, which is a FujiNet board designed to fit inside the C64 Ultimate, allowing for additional functionality including stereo sound and keyboard integration. The meeting also covered topics like Google's AI impact on YouTube content creators, a discussion about a 5200 console modification project that converts it into an all-in-one Atari system, and general conversation about vintage computers and gaming.

Summary

The conversation was a general discussion about locations across the United States, with participants sharing experiences about traveling between different states and cities. Mariano mentioned getting a new Toyota electric vehicle with 200-mile range and plans to use it for a trip to pick up his daughter at UCLA.

Simulator Project Progress Update

The group discussed their recent activities, with Kevin sharing that he had been reading a Leisure Suit Larry game "Walk-Through" book and had been busy with personal commitments around Mother's Day and his wife's birthday. Mariano demonstrated progress on a simulator project, showing improved animation and level features, though he expressed concerns about the game's speed. The project, which Mariano described as containing 2,000 lines of assembler code, includes DLI and sound integration, with plans to release version 1.0 soon and add scores and Fujinet functionality later.

Retro Computing and Gaming Discussion

The group discussed various topics related to retro computing and gaming. Kevin shared insights about Atari Basic development and a website (gotbasic.com) covering its history and current uses. They talked about the art of old 8-bit game box covers and how they often depicted more exciting scenarios than the actual games. Harry presented a new gadget called the "Meatloaf

Inside," which is a FujiNet board designed to fit inside the C64 Ultimate, enabling online file access and modem emulation. The group also discussed the C64 Ultimate's dual SID capabilities and a new project by Michael to create a board that transforms a 5200 into an 8-bit Atari with additional features like a USB keyboard and S-Video output, allowing it to run games from multiple Atari systems.

Atari 5200 Retro Gaming Conversion

Kevin discussed a new project that converts an Atari 5200 into a comprehensive retro gaming system by replacing its main board with a custom designed one. The conversion includes features like 1MB of additional memory, SIO port support, and compatibility with various Atari devices including S-Drive and Pico cart. The project is being developed by an unnamed creator who plans to share the design files for free, though some soldering is required for the SIO port implementation.

Trainz Simulation Route Discussion

The group discussed Don's detailed Trainz simulation, which recreates a 30-mile route from Jamestown to Angels Camp. Don explained that while he created the simulation, it was based on 80% of previous work by another creator, with elevation maps converted from available data. The participants admired the level of detail in the simulation, including the smoke effects, train movements, and historical elements like the 1956 Chevy Bel Air car. Don noted that while his version wasn't the most advanced, some creators have developed routes up to 300 miles long, with one person even planning a 1,000-mile route.

Train Simulation Project Discussion

Don discussed his work on a train simulation project, explaining that he plans to submit it to the original creator for permission to release it to the public. The group then had an informal discussion about train museums, with Robbie sharing details about the Sacramento Train Museum and Don mentioning similar state-owned museums in California.