

Old video game in the news...

Yes, that's right the old video game of [Pong](#), OK, actually it was the first video game, [not quite Pong](#).

I'm old enough to remember the first Pong games in the city of Toledo. There was one located in the entry of a K-mart store. At least I think it was a K-Mart. I remember the game, not really the store local. 1 quarter allowed you to play the game. My older brother would let me play it on his cash. Well, he was 12 years older and had a job, I was around 12 when they first came out. I remember those few games with my brother. I looked up to him, and he had time for a jerky little kid.

Fast forward a few years, and there were video arcades, games in bars, and of course home game systems. They all really started because of Pong. If you read the links, you will have found out that Pong was not the first video game. It was the first game to really take the home market. The same game you had to pay a quarter for, you could play for free at home whenever you wanted.

Back in the 80's there was PacMan, Ms PacMan, DigDug, Q*bert, Centipede and many others. These also came to the home market. Soon the home market was bigger than the Arcade business, so much so that you are hard pressed to find any independent arcades anymore. There are some arcades in a few restaurants, or in Family activity centers that deal with things you just can't fit in your home. Me I grew up in the age of the arcade. There was an arcade in almost every mall. There were arcades set out by themselves or in strip malls. Turn a corner and you could find a place to play a video game. I liked these games, and was very good at a few of them.

Then came the home consoles. I never did get the hang of those games. Quirky joy sticks that didn't work quite the same as the arcade. No heavy duty track balls. No big red firing

buttons. Then the games started to use game pads. Tiny buttons that you had to know exactly which one to push and when. Nope, never got into those. At first I said it was because the graphics were so poor on the home games, then of course it was the poor joy sticks. But of course the graphics got better than anything we saw in the arcades, but the interface was still not quite right.

A reader of this blog, and a friend pointed the way to arcade style controls in his [blog](#). It would be interesting to have my own arcade style game, but for me not really needed. I have enough to fill my time right now, I don't need to add an additional hobby. Sounds like fun, if someone wants to invite me to play on their home arcade, well I'd be willing to give it a whirl, but I won't be putting in my own. Has to be someone with lots of room though. Those arcade games can take up a bit of space....

Does anyone remember the old Atari game console? What were your favorites? I found a list [here](#). My favorite, was Pong at the arcade machine with my brother...

The Nerd

Since my friend C is in the play called The Nerd (hopefully still is, considering his medical troubles as of late) I thought I would share something I embarrassingly have enjoyed watching on the internet. Embarrassing because it's not exactly family friendly. In fact, if you have young ones around, do not watch any of these shows. In fact, don't even go to the link I am going to provide. You have been warned. What does this have to do with The Nerd? Well, the one I write about is James Rolfe, otherwise known as the angry video

game nerd. He unfortunately reminds me a little about myself playing video games sometimes. I can get really angry after playing a tough game for awhile. This is probably one of the reasons I don't play them much anymore, and when I do they are often easy ones made for kids. Anyway, Rolfe plays really bad video games on purpose just to show us all how bad they are, and to have a little fun with it. Unfortunately, his reviews are laced with profanity during the "angry" moments (just an act I'm sure) which is why I only grudgingly admit to watching them. Besides reminding me a little bit about myself, I am entertained watching video games which is probably why I continue to watch them. I download video game movies from [World of Longplays](#), [Speed Demos Archive](#), [Recorded Amiga Games](#), [TAS Videos](#), and more. This form of voyeurism, watching others play games, comes from when I was a young teen. I enjoyed arcades a little too much. When I would run out of money, I would stay and just watch others play. As far as I remember, I didn't get much strategy tips from this, just enjoyment.

Well, back to AVGN. Rolfe often has themes for the reviews he does. When a popular movie comes out, he will do a series of games based on that movie. Yep, he has recently done Indiana Jones and Batman games. He also does some holiday themes, like halloween and Christmas. From a technical standpoint, they are really pretty good. I have watched nearly all of them (I skipped just one I think- a certain type of Atari game theme which makes his page pretty much not safe for family...). This guy is quite popular too as he has had some knock-off reviewers. One did I think just one video calling himself the Christian Video Game Nerd. He just mimiced one of Rolfe's videos substituting "nicer" words for profanity in places, but the "anger" is still there. There is also a Happy Video Game Nerd, who reviews some of the better games. He stole the AVGN theme song, substituting his own lyrics. Anyway, if you haven't done a search yet by now, the Angry Video Game Nerd site is at... Hmm. I talked of one page, but it seems the page has moved. The reviews are now categorized by year so they

are not all family unsafe, but still be careful. The site is at Cinemassacre.com.

Another review favorite of mine is a bit more family friendly. Someone took it on himself to review all Nintendo (NES) games from day one of its Japanese release in the early eighties. He calls his series [Chrontendo](#) (click for link). He as also just started chronicling Sega's SMS system from the same time. I am in the process of downloading episode two of ChronSega right now. If you have broadband, do yourself a favor and download the larger DIVX videos. The quality is much better than the MP4 streams.

Anyway, that's it for now for this look into the psyche of this substitute teacher. I wonder if I should get a job with Comcast. Still bad pay, but If I work eight hours daily I will start with what I am getting as a sub, plus I will have benefits and plenty of opportunity for overtime pay too...