

# ● Notes For SLCC Zoom Meeting, 12-9-2025

● Hosted by Kevin

● In Attendance: Kevin, Robbie, Don, Bob, Scott, Ron, Chris, Harry, and Richard

● Meeting summary

## ● Quick recap

● The group began with casual conversation about weather and personal updates. The discussion then shifted to technical topics around solar panel technology and performance, with participants sharing experiences and challenges related to off-grid living and energy systems. The conversation ended with conversations about vintage computers and arcade machines, including discussions about collections, technical specifications, and future plans for regular meetings at the library location.

## ● Next steps

● [Robbie: Forward the NGO club advertising information to Kevin for review.](#)

● [Kevin: Review the forwarded NGO club information from Robbie to determine if it's worthwhile for the club.](#)

● [Kevin: Bring the new transputer card setup to a future meeting for show and tell, as discussed with Ron.](#)

## ● Summary

### ● Condolences and Personal Updates

● The group engaged in casual conversation about the weather and personal updates.

### ● Beach Plans and Solar Updates

● Kevin agreed to review NGO materials about the club that Robbie would forward. Bob shared updates about his solar panel project, noting challenges with energy absorption in foggy conditions. The group briefly discussed weather and humorously referenced rocket science insulation and space shuttle installations.

### ● Solar Panel Performance and Innovations

● The group discussed solar panel performance and technology, including specialized panels for shaded or snowy environments. Chris shared his experience with off-grid living in Mexico, where he needs to replace aging lead-acid batteries with lithium phosphate batteries for his home's power system. The

conversation concluded with a comparison of solar panel capacities, noting that modern panels can reach 800 watts and that Chris's Florida property generates about 38 kilowatts daily during winter.

- Personal Updates and Las Vegas

- The group discussed their recent activities, with Harry sharing his experience attending a disappointing AWS show in Las Vegas. Richard mentioned completing home improvement projects, including installing a dishwasher and stove. The conversation included lighthearted banter about the changing prices in Las Vegas and the group's shared memories of the city's affordable past.

- Vintage Computing Preservation Discussion

- The group discussed the fate of vintage computers and arcade machines, with Chris sharing a story about Dale Luck's collection and the challenges of preserving it. Kevin mentioned having written instructions for his children about handling his collection, and the group briefly discussed potential AI-based solutions for cataloging and valuing vintage items. The conversation concluded with Kevin sharing details about a transputer card he received from England, which enhances a Mega STE with high-definition video, additional RAM, and parallel processing capabilities.

- Atari ST Accelerator Card Demo

- Kevin showed off a new accelerator card for the Atari ST line, which he purchased for his Mega STE. The card, which costs around 190 pounds, includes a 68030 processor and can support up to 32 transputers with the transputer switch. The group discussed the history and technical details of the card, including its VME bus interface and connection to the Helios OS. They also touched on the limited production of these cards, with Kevin mentioning he had seen only one in person before. The group agreed it would be interesting to see the card in action at a future meeting.

- Retro Tech Updates and Insights

- Chris shared updates about his recent activities, including his trip to Mexico and his exploration of a CD-ROM player that contained chips from multiple Japanese companies, notably Sanyo, Sony, and Chinon. He also discussed his impressions of a well-made Falcon WizTronic rack mount system, contrasting it with amateurishly soldered Amiga video titling systems. Richard informed Chris about a fourth batch of a card available for pre-order, noting that it requires joining a waitlist due to limited production. Chris expressed interest in keeping up with the latest retro tech trends and discussed the potential of using QN FPGA chips in transputer-based projects, though he was unsure if the designer would share the RTL code.

- Compute Magazine Retro Computing Discussion

- The group discussed the Compute Magazine, with Ron sharing that he finally received all his back issues except for issue #2, which is being reprinted. Kevin mentioned finding several new retro computing websites in the latest issue, including resources for Atari, Apple, Commodore, TRS-80, and IBM systems. Chris mentioned having a complete collection of Atari comics, including the rare World Cup edition, which was produced in a limited run of 10 copies.

- Atari Parts and Customer Experiences

- The group discussed a collection of items with good artwork but poor stories, with Chris noting some were copies and small in number. Harry mentioned Atari Repair Parts, a website known for honest

dealings, and the group shared experiences with its owner's strict no-BS policy. Kevin revealed they were once on the naughty list at Atari Repair Parts for requesting a Falcon video connector, which the owner refused to sell due to their perceived ability to fix it themselves.

- Personal Anecdotes and DIY Projects

- The group discussed various personal anecdotes, including Kevin's experience with a vendor who blacklisted him for \$5,800 over a missed order pickup. Don shared updates about his train setup projects, which are both popular and time-consuming, while Chris mentioned filming his own classes. Scott described repairing his flagpole light, which had corroded components, and ordered a new light to comply with the uniform flag code.

- Flag Laws and Library Updates

- The group discussed flag regulations and shooting laws in different states, with Scott sharing details about his multiple flags and firearms collection. Robbie announced that the library would be available for another 6 months, securing in-person meetings through July. The conversation ended with plans to continue regular meetings at the library location.

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