●Notes For SLCC Zoom Meeting 12-16-2025

- Hosted by Kevin

- In Attendance: Kevin, Robbie, Scott, Bob, Harry, and Don

● Meeting summary

● Quick recap

- The meeting primarily focused on personal updates and discussions among participants, including conversations about recent losses, weather conditions, and personal interests. Kevin shared updates about his father and mentioned his collection of retro gaming consoles, including a newly acquired Atari 65XE. Harry discussed his recent success in repairing a heavily modified Atari 2600 console and shared insights into modding and upgrading vintage gaming hardware. The group also discussed various computer models, operating systems, and the challenges of running legacy software on modern systems. The conversation touched on the nostalgia and appeal of classic computers and gaming systems, with recommendations for acquiring Atari ST models for enthusiasts.

●Next steps

- [Harry: Bring the programmer (for 32-in-1 upgrade) and the 5200 to the next physical meeting for Kevin.](#)
- [Harry: Bring Kevin the 5200 to borrow, as discussed, to help diagnose Kevin's non-working 5200.](#)

● Summary

● Regional Weather and Personal Updates

- The group discussed weather conditions in different regions, with participants sharing updates from Florida, Texas, the Bay Area, and other locations. Scott mentioned protecting his citrus trees from freezing temperatures by moving them into a garage.

Kevin shared that he had reached out to Michael, who had recently had a heart attack and was recovering well with two stents. The conversation was informal and focused on personal updates and weather-related small talk.

- ● **Keyboard Evolution and News Updates**

● The group discussed Don's recovery and his brother's stents, noting their effectiveness. They also talked about Don's new LED keyboard and its features, with Scott mentioning the historical evolution of keyboard layouts. The conversation shifted to a lighthearted discussion about old IBM keyboards and their weight, before Robbie shared a news story about a car that flew onto BART tracks in Castro Valley.

- ● **BART Train Car Accident Discussion**

● The group discussed a car accident involving a BART train, where a car being towed by a truck was hit and launched into the air. They agreed the tow truck driver was likely at fault, and the incident would be covered by insurance. The conversation then shifted to general discussion about speeding and traffic laws, with participants sharing experiences about receiving speeding tickets, particularly on El Camino and Highway 82.

- ● **Classic Cars and Modern Performance**

● The group discussed classic cars, with Kevin sharing details about his 1979 Trans Am and its performance limitations due to smog regulations. They compared modern and classic car performance, with Scott noting that even non-exotic cars now have significant horsepower and torque. Harry mentioned his 2021 Mach 1 Mustang, which he found challenging to control in wet conditions due to its rear-wheel drive. The conversation concluded with Kevin announcing he had acquired an Atari 800XE, completing his collection of XE models.

- ● **Vintage Computer Restoration Techniques**

● The group discussed the condition and restoration of vintage computer hardware, particularly focusing on a 130XE that was missing one pin and had yellowed plastic. Kevin shared his successful Retro Brighting process, which involves using Mr. Clean erasers and 409 cleaner with a moist enclosure, while Scott suggested conducting a scientific test to compare the effectiveness of using the badge eraser. The conversation concluded with Harry mentioning his recent setback in modding skills after damaging a joystick pin on his 2600 console, which led him to order a new DB9 connector from AtariParts.com.

- ● **Console Repair and Emulation Insights**

● Harry shared his experience of successfully repairing a bricked Heavy Sixer console after identifying a cold solder joint on a crystal diode, which he discovered using a

digital microscope. He also discussed his recent acquisition of a Pico-based device that can flash ROMs onto both a 2600 and 7800 console, and mentioned that the 7800 Plus emulates games using RetroArc. Kevin recommended the GameStation Pro as a more capable and affordable alternative to the 7800 Plus, suggesting it offers better value for money.

- **Atari Gaming Devices Discussion**

- The group discussed various Atari-related products, including the GameStation Pro and Atari VCS. Kevin explained the differences between these devices and shared details about firmware updates and ROMs. Harry expressed interest in purchasing the GameStation Pro, while Scott noted the importance of targeting younger consumers for nostalgia-based products. The conversation concluded with a lighthearted discussion about Star Trek-themed wine.

- **Tech Evolution and Nostalgia Discussion**

- The group discussed various topics, including a spicy rose wine, a Die Hard-themed advent calendar, and the operating system OS/2 Warp. They also talked about the history of Windows operating systems and the Palm Pilot. Scott shared his experience with an HP Touchpad running WebOS, which he later rooted and converted to Android. The conversation touched on the legacy of old movies and the evolution of technology over the years.

- **Windows OS Versions: A Historical Overview**

- The group discussed various versions of Windows operating systems, with Kevin sharing insights about Windows CE's history and its failed attempt to become a gaming platform through a partnership with Sega for the Dreamcast. They also discussed the continued use of a stripped-down version of Windows XP for point-of-sale systems, which Kevin noted is still being updated by Microsoft. The conversation concluded with a comparison of different Windows versions, with the group agreeing that Windows XP and Windows 7 were the most successful, while Vista had its challenges but could be improved with third-party software.

- **Windows 11 Installation Workarounds**

- The group discussed hardware upgrades and Windows 11 installation challenges. They also discussed how Windows 11 updates can sometimes revert registry settings and how Microsoft's business model has shifted towards cloud services and AI, with Harry mentioning that each Windows 11 update includes more AI features.

- **Atari ST and Linux Discussion**

- Harry and Kevin discussed computer operating systems and hardware, with Kevin expressing interest in switching to Linux Mint while Harry shared his experience with

Windows Subsystem for Linux and Macs. They also discussed Atari ST computers, with Kevin recommending the 1040 STFM as a basic model and the Mega STE as the best option for upgrades, including the possibility of adding a graphics card for gaming. Harry expressed interest in acquiring an Atari ST and mentioned plans to bring a programmer and a 5200 console to their next physical meeting for troubleshooting.