

- **Notes For SLCC Zoom Meeting 12-30-2025**
- Hosted by Kevin
- In Attendance: Kevin, Robbie, Mariano, Bob, Scott, Harry Ron, Don, and Michael S.

- **Meeting summary**

- **Quick recap**

- The meeting primarily focused on sharing updates and experiences related to Atari and computing nostalgia, as well as discussing technical challenges and solutions. Participants, including Kevin, Robbie, Mariano, Harry, Scott, Ron, and others, shared their progress with various Atari-related projects, such as using the Altera emulator, testing joysticks, and exploring Fujinet for network functionality. Kevin addressed technical issues with email delivery and shared insights into maintaining and repairing vintage equipment like the 820 printer. Harry demonstrated the capabilities of the Altera emulator, showcasing its extensive features and compatibility with various Atari devices. Ron mentioned finding and organizing old Atari-related items, including books and joysticks, while planning to test and repair a 820 printer. The group also discussed weather impacts, personal anecdotes, and upcoming plans for the new year, concluding with well-wishes and goodbyes.

- **Next steps**

- [Kevin: Investigate and resolve the issue with Don not receiving group emails, including checking why Don's email address disappeared from the Google Group and ensuring he receives future meeting invitations \(by next meeting if possible\).](#)
- [Don: If email issue is not resolved, send a direct meeting link to Don for the next meeting.](#)
- [Harry: Follow up with Steven Tucker regarding access credentials for the online 32-in-1 bin creator tool and await response.](#)
- [Ron: Test and perform basic maintenance \(cleaning, lubrication, fuse check\) on both 820 printers found in storage to determine if they are functional, and bring Atari-related books and items to the next in-person meeting for others.](#)

- **Summary**

- **Flight Simulator and Weather Chat**

- Robbie discussed his experience with a flight simulator, mentioning challenges with color settings and the need to review Flight Sim 2. The group engaged in casual conversation about weather conditions, with participants sharing experiences of cold weather in their respective regions. Robbie remembered to reach out to Don regarding a missed email, and the group discussed the possibility of the email ending up in Don's spam folder.

- **Sierra Snow and Wind Damage**

- The group discussed weather conditions, with Kevin noting that while the Bay Area was receiving normal rainfall, the Sierra was experiencing below-average snowpack, necessitating the upcoming week's snow. Harry shared photos of severe wind damage from Christmas morning, including a swing set being lifted by high winds and pool floaties being blown away. The conversation concluded with Robbie mentioning that Lick Observatory experienced a 116-mile-per-hour windstorm that damaged their telescope dome, and that Don was having trouble accessing his Juno email.

- **Google Group Membership Restoration**

- The group discussed issues with the Google Group email, where Kevin identified that Don Safer's name had been removed from the member list. They determined that only Kevin and Bill have rights to manage the group, and after some troubleshooting, they were able to restore Don Safer's name in the system. The conversation concluded with casual discussion about New Year's Eve celebrations, particularly noting that Robbie had never been to Times Square for the holiday.

- **Vintage Tech and AI Discussions**

- The group discussed various topics including the disappearance of an email address, nostalgia for old computer systems, and the development of AI in driving cars. They shared personal experiences with vintage technology and movies. Kevin showed off some unique Christmas gifts, including a paper floppy disk holder and a graphene pencil. Robbie attempted to share his screen to demonstrate Atari flight simulator progress, but encountered technical difficulties with screen sharing permissions.

- **Technical Discussion and Game Demo**

The group discussed technical issues with screen sharing and introduced a new oscilloscope device, with Bob explaining its features and limitations. Robbie demonstrated his setup for the Flight Simulator 2 game, which he was finding challenging to play due to its slow response time. Harry mentioned having something to share but did not complete his statement before the transcript ended.

Atari Emulator Setup and Features

The team discussed using an Atari emulator with a 32-in-1 device, which allows for selecting and running various Atari games. Harry demonstrated how to set up the emulator, including configuring reset keys and selecting firmware files from a GitHub repository. They explored the emulator's capabilities, such as supporting different cartridge types and devices like the APE Warp and VBXE. The team admired the emulator's comprehensive features and accuracy, noting its cycle-accurate emulation.

Retro Gaming Hardware Diagnostics

The group discussed various technical aspects of retro gaming hardware, including the discovery of a diagnostic board with multiple personality options and the ability to switch between different operating systems on boot. Harry inquired about accessing a web-based bin creator tool, which was password protected, and planned to follow up with the creator. The conversation also touched on the potential future of retro gaming, with Kevin imagining a scenario where technology would allow for hands-free operation of vintage hardware.

Altera Emulator Updates and Features

The group discussed updates to Altera, an open-source emulator that has evolved significantly since version 3.2, with the current version being 4.31. Kevin highlighted that the program is well-organized and frequently updated, though primarily maintained by a small group. Scott inquired about the ability to map joystick buttons to arbitrary keyboard

keys, which Kevin confirmed is now possible. Harry noted that certain features, like fast math pack and Speedster, are incompatible with Happy drives but work well with SD card solutions and Warp OS. Mariano mentioned that there hasn't been a new release for SpartaDos in a few years, and Scott confirmed that his version of Altera is outdated, with no built-in update feature, suggesting users must manually download and install newer versions.

Atari Emulation and Community Updates

The group discussed various Atari-related topics, including a new emulator and the Fujinet network operating system for Atari 8-bit computers, which allows for network file access and multiple drive handlers. Harry shared his new Intellivision Sprint controller, which offers USB connectivity and wireless gameplay, and the group welcomed Michael S., who provided an update on his current activities, including his retirement and ongoing work at his wife's salon. The conversation concluded with reflections on the progress made in emulating Atari systems and the ongoing efforts of developers in the community.

Altera Emulator and Atari Connectivity

The group discussed an Altera emulator that runs exclusively on Windows, with Kevin praising its capabilities despite the platform limitation. They explored various options for connecting Atari games to the emulator, including downloading ATR files from repositories and using USB joysticks or adapters. Harry mentioned a multi-joystick adapter with an OLED screen that works with Stella and other emulators, which sparked interest from Mariano and Kevin. The conversation concluded with Kevin sharing experiences with a Stella adapter for single joysticks and its versatility across different emulators and systems.

Atari Printer Restoration Discussion

Ron shared that he found several Atari-related items in storage, including books, joysticks, and two 820 printers with new ribbons. The group discussed maintaining the printers, with Kevin and Bob advising on cleaning and lubricating them before turning them on. Don mentioned he would send the meeting link directly to the group next time to resolve technical issues. The conversation ended with participants wishing each other a Happy New Year and signing off.