

Notes for SLCC-Atari Zoom Meeting 7/14/26

Hosted by Kevin

In Attendance, Kevin, Robbie, Don, and Scott

[Review action items](#)

Meeting summary

Quick recap

The meeting was an informal gathering where participants discussed various computer-related topics, including printing issues, vintage computer collections, and preparations for an upcoming Vintage Computer Festival. Kevin shared details about rare Atari prototypes and plans to display them at the festival, while Robbie mentioned struggles with a Canon printer and handling old photos. Don demonstrated a detailed train simulation project he had been working on, featuring the Big Boy locomotive in Fostoria, Ohio. Scott talked about his involvement in historical combat reenactments and recent health challenges. The group also touched on topics like a SpaceX Starship launch, raffle ideas, and local community events. The conversation was casual, with members sharing personal anecdotes and updates on their hobbies and interests.

Next steps

Kevin

- [Send an email reminder to Robbie about bringing the monitor to the festival.](#)
- [Continue looking for alternative options for the library raffle idea.](#)
- [Follow up with Garrett to confirm if he will bring his Atari 1400XL to the festival.](#)
- [Bring the prototype 1200, 1050, and 1027 printer to the festival for display.](#)
- [Arrange for Harry to bring a rolling cart and additional monitors to the festival.](#)

Robbie

- [Bring the Commodore monitor to the Vintage Computer Festival for Kevin's display.](#)

Summary

Printer Issues and Gaming Discussion

The group discussed printer issues, with Robbie sharing problems he encountered while trying to print old photos. Don joined the conversation and showed a rare "Haley Project" game from Mindscape for 8-bit Atari, which was signed by Neil Buzz Collins. The discussion concluded with updates about the Starship launch time and news about a Vintage Computer Festival attendee from Atlanta who hosts the "Floppy Days" podcast.

Computer History Interview Planning Discussion

Kevin discussed an upcoming interview opportunity with someone who wants to fly out to the show to discuss computer history, including topics about Atari and Sinclair. Robbie inquired about a raffle idea Kevin had sent, but Kevin clarified he hadn't actually sent any raffle information, and they discussed logistics concerns about shipping prizes internationally. The group also discussed issues with Google Groups access and email distribution, noting that only three people had logged in so far.

Atari Computer Festival Display Plans

Kevin discussed plans to display multiple rare Atari computers at an upcoming computer festival, including three 1400s and three 1450s, with the possibility of adding a fourth 1400 if Garrett attends. He shared that Garrett found a rare 1400 XL at a garage sale for around \$50, which required some repairs including building a new power supply and cleaning a voice chip. Kevin also mentioned bringing prototype equipment from Chris, including a 1200, 1050, and 1027 printer, though these will be displayed as static items rather than operational units.

Event Setup Planning Meeting

Robbie agreed to bring his monitor to help with the event setup, and Kevin will send a reminder email. Harry plans to assist with loading equipment using a rolling cart and may bring additional monitors. The group briefly discussed an upcoming rocket launch and Scott shared details about his martial arts training, including a recent sparring session where he struggled to reach his target count of 45 blows due to being out of shape.

Historical Combat Reenactment Health Challenges

Scott discussed his hobby of historical combat reenactment, explaining the vulnerabilities in armor and common injuries like twisted ankles and broken fingers. He shared that he recently recovered from a serious health incident involving ischemic colitis and blood clots in his arm, which required hospitalization and ongoing treatment with blood thinners. Scott mentioned he's preparing for an upcoming war reenactment in Pennsylvania while still recovering from these health issues.

Printer Issues and Raffle Discussion

Robbie discussed his ongoing issues with a Canon printer, explaining that despite having numerous printing and scanning programs installed, he is unable to print photos at the desired size. Scott shared details about a police department raffle in Texas where they give away firearms, including his strategy of purchasing raffle tickets throughout the year rather than all at once.

Fostoria Train Simulation Overview

Don shared his detailed train simulation of Fostoria, Ohio, which he created over two years, including accurate representations of buildings, streets, and the current location of the "Big Boy" steam locomotive. He successfully resolved previous technical issues with train derailments and AI functionality. The simulation includes realistic features like car transportation by rail and local businesses, with Don having modeled approximately 95% of the town's streets and key landmarks.

Train Derailments Discussion

The group discussed train derailments, with Don explaining that in railroad simulators, derailed trains don't crash but rather stop and disappear. Robbie shared his experience with BART trains, describing how derailments typically involve broken switches rather than complete derailments. The conversation included a personal anecdote from Kevin about a BART train that went sideways across both rails, and the discussion concluded with details about the Big Boy steam locomotive, including its coal-burning engine and the challenges of moving it across the country.

Steam Locomotive Conversion Discussion

The group discussed steam locomotives, with Don explaining how Union Pacific converted a decommissioned steam engine to use oil and now operates it with diesel backup for maintenance and emergency purposes. They noted the engine requires

multiple tenders - one for oil and two for water - due to the lack of regular refueling stations along routes. The conversation also touched on BART's electric power source from the Bonneville dam and included a brief discussion about Hoover Dam's construction and the historical Haley educational software program.