



# COMMODORE USERS GROUP OF ATLANTA

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Next Meeting:

7:30 pm, Thursday, February 28, 1991  
Tucker Christian Church

Speaker: John Tackett

Subject: Demonstration of "GeoPublish"  
News of Berkeley's PC/Geos  
and Software from Germany.  
Also "GeoWizard"

Last month the weather  
was a factor.  
Let's get back on track  
with this meeting!

## A Modest Proposal to Postpone the Inevitable

by Dallas Denny

Secretary/Treasurer, Commodore Users Group of Atlanta  
Associate Member, Stone Mountain Users Group

Like it or not, the C-64 is inexorably becoming an orphan computer. In its heyday, it was phenomenally popular (and inexpensive). But Commodore long ago forsook the home market in vain pursuit of a business market that had already been sewn up by IBM, and the proliferation of inexpensive MS-DOS clones and Nintendo game machines has left the C-64 without a source of new users. Software support has dwindled, and will continue to dwindle, and hardware has become difficult to find. As new and exciting products appear for other brands, and their prices continue to fall, attrition will thin the ranks of the Commodore "faithful." The Commodore 64 is destined go the way of CPM, the TI 994A, the Atari 800, and the Apple II; it will be used only by a diehard few.

I was a founder of the Nashville Commodore Users Group, a club which in its heyday had five meetings a month and more than 250 members. In addition to their availability at bona-fide dealers, Commodore computers, accessories, and software could be found at K-Mart and Wal-Mart and Target stores, at Sears, at Toys-R-Us, Service Merchandise, and at other department stores. New users were everywhere. Other clubs throughout the country were in a growth phase, and it looked like the sky was the limit.

But things change. Commodore clubs are no longer growing, and except in the short term, they *cannot* grow. The horizons are no longer boundless. What existing clubs can do is to continue to serve Commodore users for as long as there is a need to do so, to plan for gradual decline in membership, and to adapt to changing needs (i.e., become MS-DOS or MacIntosh or Amiga groups), or finally, to merge with other groups or disband with dignity.

The Metro Atlanta area has a handful of small Commodore users groups, all of which can expect in the near future to be faced with declining membership. All have meetings which are sparsely attended. None can hold out much hope for the future.

While the individual clubs could conceivably hang on for several more years, they could offer their respective members more by combining their resources to form a larger, more active and energetic club. Meetings would be more exciting, merged treasuries would allow for financial health, and the putting together of so many heads would result in a synergy and drive that would make Commodore computing in Atlanta exciting for the next several years.

I propose that the members and governing bodies of these clubs consider taking steps to merge the existing small Atlanta Commodore user groups into a larger, more healthy superclub.