



COMMODORE USERS GROUP OF ATLANTA

Volume 9, Issue 9

September, 1991

Next Meeting

Thursday, September 26, 1991
Tucker Christian Church
4291 Lunburn Dr. - Tucker, Ga.

Subject: Demonstration
"Fast Hackum"
For 'Hands-On' experience
bring your own equipment
and software so you can
practice what you learn
from the demonstration.

Executive Board Officers

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BEFORE WE AT C.U.G.A. MEET IN OCTOBER

Officers of CUGA, MACK and SMUG will have a combined meeting on October 19, 1991 at Micro Center, Powers Ferry Road, Marietta, in room 3 at 10 am. Your input will be welcome.

Members of three clubs will be advised of whatever developments take place and vote their approval.

We are already planning activities in which all three of the clubs can participate and also serve the larger Metro area. Most of all we are looking for a name for this new association. If you have a suggestion submit it to your user group at their next meeting.

We know there must be hundreds of Commodore 64, 128, and Amiga users in the Metro Area who are not members of any of the clubs who need the support of a user group who are not now participating in any of the three clubs. We need your help and you need the clubs now in existence. JOIN!!!

C.U.G.A.
P. O. Box 2031
Tucker, Ga. 30085-2031

M.A.C.K.
P. O. Box 813481
Smyrna, Ga. 30081

S.M.U.G. 64/128
P. O. Box 1762
Lilburn, Ga. 30226

Yes, I am interested in becoming a member of your user group. I have much to learn and much to contribute. Please let me know how I may join and when you meet. Or if I am presently a member in one of the groups how may I become an associate in one of the other two and when they meet.

My name _____

Address _____

City/State _____ ZIP CODE _____

I PRESENTLY OWN _____

OTHER _____ Computer _____ Drive _____ Monitor _____

CUT -- AND MAIL TO ANY OF THE ABOVE USER GROUPS.

CLARK: A REMINISCENCE-- PART III

by Dallas Denny

Clark worked away on his VIC-20, using it to communicate in his everyday life. It took him laborious minutes to make it say even the simplest things. Wendy McAmis and Joyce Moore and I dreamed about upgrading Clark's system, but where would we find the money?

In 1984, I moved to Nashville to go to graduate school. One day I told Dr. Floyd Dennis, my advisor, about Clark, and our wish to get him a C-64 with a disk drive and a color monitor. Floyd had an idea, and set up a lunch meeting with Roger Blue, the director of the Association for Retarded Citizens of Tennessee. Over moo goo guypan, we made our pitch to Roger: could the ARC-T help us to find a computer for Clark? The deck was stacked, for I had been doing a lot of favors for the ARC-T: setting up a database system to allow them to track the registrants for the upcoming national conference of the ARC, which was to be held at the beautiful Opryland Hotel, as well as appearing as an expert witness in various court cases and due process hearings. Soon, we had a \$500 check from the ARC.

Back in East Tennessee for the summer, I took the ARC's check to Marjorie Nell Cardwell, then the superintendent of Greene Valley, Clark's home, and shamelessly asked for matching funds. She met with the Parents' Advisory Council, returning with a check for (as I recall) a bit more than \$200.

Clark's fund bought him a C-64 computer, a 1541 disk drive, a 1702 color monitor, and a Votrax speech synthesizer. We even found a plug-in cartridge that would make the 64 autoboot. But there was not enough money for a printer. However, luck was with us. Joyce (Clark's speech therapist), told the story at a meeting of a local computer club, and a 1525 printer was donated. Clark was in business!

Joyce began training Clark in the use of a new program I had written. The program had more than 700 built-in words and phrases. Clark used some of them, but his failing eyesight kept him from using the full potential of the program. Still, he was "talking," and it was no longer necessary for Wendy (Clark's program coordinator) to manually load his program every morning (something she had been driving to the Valley on Saturday and Sunday mornings for several years to do).

Payback, they say, is hell, but not in this case. Back at Vanderbilt in Nashville, I got a call out of the blue-- from Roger Blue. It seemed that ARC-T had been asked by ARC National to provide a handicapped person to give the invocation at the ARC national meeting. Would it be possible for Clark to come and speak with the aid of his computer?

Indeed it would. With Marjorie Nell's approval, Wendy and I and a male attendant loaded Clark into a van with a lift, and headed for Music City. There, on the stage in front of delegates from all over the country, he gave the invocation. I had rigged the computer to begin speaking automatically when Clark pressed his foot switch. We were given the high sign, I signalled Clark, he reached for the switch with a trembling foot, and the amplified voice of SAM, the Software Automatic Mouth (we had left the Votrax behind) boomed across the ballroom.

There wasn't a dry eye in the place, including mine, and Wendy's, and Clark's.

Again with Wendy and myself along, Clark repeated his performance in front of the national meeting of the Civitans Clubs of America-- this time delivering a speech instead of a prayer. That night, we stayed at the Opryland Hotel. The next morning, he spent two hours on the balcony, which overlooked the hotel's wonderful conservatory-- just drinking it all in.

Clark's two trips to Nashville were the high spot of his life. Wendy and I were lucky to be able to share in his triumph. And when Clark's artificial voice was booming across that ballroom, I looked at Clark and thanked God and Jack Tramiel and the ARC-T for the miracle of his C-64.