



# COMMODORE USERS GROUP OF ATLANTA

Volume 10, Issue 1

January, 1992

## Next Meeting.

## Executive Board Officers

President: Mark Thomas (717-986)  
Sec./Treas. Dallas Benny (987-8312)  
Vice President: Bob Padgett (938-2413)  
Vice President: Gene Smith (636-8598)

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Ass't Librarian: Marie Thomas (717-9866)  
C-128 Librarian: Bob Pitts (636-8007)  
Amiga SA: Bob Padgett (938-2413)

Thursday, January 23, 1992  
Tucker Christian Church  
4291 Lynburn Dr. - Tucker, Ga.  
Program: 7:30 pm  
Subject: "Big Blue Reader"  
Demo: Darwin Christensen

Also: Dallas Benny and  
Mark Thomas will  
assemble an IBM  
compatible computer

## It's Not Over til the fat lady sings!

And guess what? She is just finishing her song. So except for a few membership decisions CUGA is just about over too!

In October 1990, CUGA boasted 39 paid up members. And our meetings drew good attendance. We are starting 1992 with 11 paid up members and hardly half of those attend meetings. We can't explain what happened, but whatever - it happened.

The meeting on Thursday January 23rd will help us determine our future course. We know there are still lots of Commodore users in this area, but they just don't participate. Why? If it's the officers, we'll be glad to change that. Is it the location? Fine, help us find another. Is it the cost? The \$20.00 per year barely pays copying and mailing the newsletter. In fact, in order to copy our minimum number of newsletters this month two members are splitting the cost. So unless some positive decisions are made Thursday night this may well be CUGA's last newsletter.

Whenever you are - member, visitor, or interested friend if you want to keep a Commodore & Amiga user group meeting every fourth Thursday night in Tucker - come to our meeting and make your wishes known. That's Thursday night, 7:30 pm, January 23rd at Tucker Christian Church, 4291 Lynburn Drive, Tucker, Georgia

## The Column After the Last Commodore Column or The First Game Machine Column

Dallas Denny

Like bad pennies, my columns keep turning up. In last month's newsletter, I wrote about the death by obsolescence of the dozen or so computers in my house, and of my ten-year paralysis in selecting a new machine (I have been unable to decide whether to buy a PC clone, a Macintosh, or an Amiga).

I've still not bought a computer, although I seem to be closer than ever before. I appear to be moving toward MS-DOS. Why? Because it's better? No—the Amiga is better. Because it's more powerful? No—the Amiga is more powerful. Because it's easier to use? No—the Macintosh is easier to use. Why, then?

Well, for several reasons. First, because everyone keeps sending me diskettes in MS-DOS format and I can't read them on my Commodore. Second, because I found a PS/2 Model 50 unused at work and dragged it into my office and read the DOS manual until I could format the hard drive and installed WordPerfect and started writing and haven't looked back at EasyScript, the C-64 word processor I used for almost 10 years. And lastly, because I find myself in possession (free of charge) of a Toshiba T1100+ MS-DOS laptop and most of the parts I'll need to put together an XT.

There are also reasons to buy a Macintosh. The biggest one is that I publish a magazine, and it's laid out on the Mac, using Quark Xpress. Macifying myself will make me less dependent upon my graphic art people, who are notoriously slow in delivering product.

I've even looked at the Amiga again.

A prime consideration for me is price. I don't have much money, and I have power user needs. I want the most bang for the buck. A thousand dollars is a lot of money to me, and represents the most I can reasonably spend. And so, the bottom line—which is cheaper?

When I heard the Amiga 500 is only \$399, my eyes lit up. By I soon found out that I would need at least 1 meg of memory (at \$150), and that hard drives cost nearly \$500. Total: \$1050. I can buy a full 386 system with VGA monitor for just a little more than that. And a Mac Classic II with a 40mb hard drive and 2mb of system memory is only \$1350 (and it has a built-in monitor).

Decision, decisions.

Until I make up my mind, I have a PC on my desk at work, and a PC at home, and I can transport disks back and forth. But I still have my SX-64, which I plan to sell, and my plain vanilla C-64. What am I to do with it? Sell it? No! It has been too much a part of my life.

I recently moved, and as I carried box after box of 5 1/4" diskettes, most of which contained games, the idea hit me—why not set up my C-64 solely as a game machine?

Indeed. Why not?

The C-64, which is still in boxes, will be set up in the dining room, which (we having no fancy dining table) is empty. I will be assembling my collection of magic peripherals (radio controlled joysticks, a track ball, a Votrax speech synthesizer, a voice recognition unit, an environmental control device, a Koalapad). I'll route the audio output to an amplifier, and then and I'll be rediscovering those C-64 games I used to spend so much time with: Silent Service; Jumpman; Lode Runner; Space Taxi; Boulderdash; Zork. And I'll be writing about them, here, in this space. I'm going to use the PC for the kludgework it is made for, and have fun with my Commodore. That is, after all, what computers are all about.

Game boy, watch out!

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**Macintosh/MS-DOS SIG?** I'm interested in learning more about MS-DOS and Macintosh computers. If there is sufficient interest, we could start a special interest group or groups. Please see me (Dallas) at the CUGA main meeting and let's talk treason to Commodore.

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**SX-64 for sale. Very good condition.** \$300 includes suede carrying bag, cables, modem, owner's manual. Drive has been permanently fixed. No alignment problems in 5 years. Also Tandy Model 100 laptop & all accessories, \$325. Call Dallas evenings at (404) 987-8312 or days at 294-1616.