

## Past Program Notes – Newest and Best Sunday, April 17, 2016

NOTE: these scribblings are simply my reflections on how the meeting went and they are purely subjective. It's my somewhat feeble attempt to give those who didn't attend a feel for how the meeting went. For more objective information, please read the Meeting Minutes when they are posted.

This meeting was very frustrating for Gary Young. While transporting his power amp to the meeting, it was damaged by his packing method. Lacking a bottom panel at this point, when it was packed in soft material the packing pushed up into the bottom of the amp causing a part to contact the chassis. When turned on, the shorted component was destroyed. However, the rest of the equipment was still functioning and Steve Gooding volunteered to return to his home and bring in the club's tubed integrated amp. Assisted by Bob Prager, they retrieved the amp from Steve's home and brought it back.

While we were waiting, for Steve and Bob, Wing Wong came in and brought a home designed and built triode, transmitter tube based, single-ended amp. Unfortunately, this amp did not have enough gain to power the speakers to satisfactory levels.

When Steve and Bob returned, we immediately set up the amp and got the system playing.

For the next hour or so, Gary gave us a thorough schooling on the steps and methods for building kits. I had thought that he would cover the different kits available, but it appears he a great read on what the attendees were interested in. He thoroughly covered the steps to build a kit, showing the components, how to stuff a circuit board, soldering needs, typical construction details, a structured approach to the build, and even post construction testing. All-in-all, a thorough lesson on how to approach the building of a kit. His presentation was regularly interrupted by attendees asking intelligent and thoughtful questions, for which he gave clear concise answers. We left with lots of great information on current kit building procedures.

Then we proceeded to listen to the system consisting of the club's TT playing through Gary's phono preamp, the club's integrated amp and Gary's speakers. We even had Chuck's equipment stand AND his personal corner traps. The sound was quite good considering the modest nature of the system components. Again this month, Gary's speakers stood out as an amazing bargain at around \$1600 for the pair. He is going to see if the manufacturer will send us one of their higher-end pairs to build a program around later this year!!

Lots of great vinyl was played, the refreshments were great and everybody appeared to have a really great time.

ADDITIONALLY, a friend of the club, Tom Caselli obtained 20 initial-run copies of the beautifully done Tone Audio magazine from the publisher... which he delivered to this meeting. They were distributed to the attendees on a first-come, first-served basis and there were no left-overs! My first impression of this magazine is quite positive. It is done at a level of quality usually only seen in bound coffee-table books. The pages are heavy and of fine quality, the art work is wonderful and the writing is thoughtful and informational. And, I have only read through the first few articles!

See the Meeting minutes for more details.

