

On Sunday, January 22, 2012, the monthly meeting of the Audio-Video Club of Atlanta was held at the Virtual Properties Realty Training Room in Duluth, Georgia. This meeting featured the products distributed by Audio Mercury Brands, with a detailed presentation on their lineup, and listening sessions of two fine systems.

First up was John Morrison, president, with some club announcements. He reminded all present that the 2012 dues (\$40 per year) are now due. Dues will be waived for Dennis and Jennifer who provide refreshments on their own (no club reimbursement) at almost every meeting. John also stated that nominations for three officer positions will be solicited at the next meeting. The officer positions are President, Vice President (of Industry Relations), and Secretary. The other officer positions are elected next year since we have two year terms for officers, and the terms are staggered. Upcoming meeting plans were also announced.

John then introduced Kanda Xie of Audio Mercury Brands, who gave a detailed overview of the brands and products represented by this company. The other owner, Andy was unable to attend. Audio Mercury was founded to distribute fine audio equipment in China. Their current brands are Bona Cables, Supravox speakers, Golden Time room treatments, and Tube Sense Electronics. The company also now builds high end, treated, listening rooms for clients in China.

Kanda showed the audience details on the construction of the Bona cables, which are built in a factory in China that has the equipment to produce many different cables at many different price points. Next, she showed us photos of a 2006 factory tour of Supravox speakers, which are made in France. The model we heard was the Carla, a single full range floor-standing speaker with a range of 50Hz to 18kHz. All components of the speakers are made and assembled by hand in France. Next up was an explanation of the Golden Time A90 (corner) and A180 (flat wall) room treatment "columns". Finally, the lineup of electronics by Tube Sense was shown, including the TS-KT88 50 watt power amplifier used in today's listening sessions, and the 15 watt TS-6BQ6 power amplifier. Other products in the Tube Sense lineup include additional power amplifiers, integrated amplifiers, a preamplifier, and a headphone amplifier.

Then it was on to listening to the systems assembled. The CD player used was Chuck's EAR Acute-III player, using the club reference CD put together by Dennis Juranek, and other CD's brought in by the attendees. We used the TS-KT88 amplifier and the Supravox Carla speakers, along with Bona "Classic" interconnects and speaker wires. Some listeners commented that as far as overall sound, it was some of the best sound auditioned in the room. The other system used the same CD player and amplifier, with a pair of two-way bookshelf speakers designed by Andy (of Audio Mercury), which use paper cones for the low/mid driver and an aluminum tweeter.

There was a raffle featuring one of Audio Mercury's very fine Headphone Amps as a raffle prize along with a set of high-end IEMs (In Ear Monitors) from the online store Miccastore.com, and an assortment of CDs donated by our club classical reviewer Dr. Phil Muse, and others by Ray Kimber, Legacy Audio and Chuck Bruce.

The club thanks our presenter for a great afternoon of learning and listening, and more thanks to Virtual Properties for the use of their training room, and to those who donated raffle prizes.

Thomas Horner
Secretary, A-V Club of Atlanta