On Sunday, February 17, 2013, the monthly meeting of the Audio-Video Club of Atlanta was held at the Virtual Properties Realty Training Room in Duluth, Georgia.  This meeting replaced the originally scheduled meeting at MPower AV that was postponed due to that dealer moving his store to a new location.  Therefore, this meeting featured a lot of music listening using equipment and music selections brought in by members, and the club's reference integrated amplifier.  The equipment used is listed below in more detail.

The president, John Morrison was first up with some announcements. John said that his work on setting up a new web site for the club is moving forward, and in conjunction with that the ability to pay your dues on-line using the site. Once the site is set up, members will be asked to pay their 2013 dues.  It appears that this will occur in the next month.  John also discussed Canlanta, 2013, being held locally.  The club was thinking of joining this event, but it has grown to over 50 participants and we do not want our club to distract the attendees from their main events.  Chuck Bruce then announced our upcoming meetings, including Aragon/Acurus on March 17, VTL/Nordost/Martin on April 21 (at a new shop, Sight and Sound Gallery, located downtown), a DIY meeting (equipment builders) in May, and a reel-to-reel tape program on June 30 with mastering engineer Paul Stubblebine.  Up next was Paul Tarver who asked that members who would like to make presentations, similar to his early Rock and Roll program last year, are more than welcome to do so.  Any music genres are good!

John then introduced the equipment being used today and who supplied it:
Bill McCulloch brought in his Lexicon Multiplayer (Universal) Disk player as transport.
Dennis Juranek brought in the AMR DP-777 DAC, which he told us features two DAC chips, one for "low" resolution (Red Book) playback, and one for "high" resolution playback.  It retails for $5000.  It has options for re-clocking and over-sampling, and uses military spec radar tubes to re-clock the digital input stream.
Chuck Bruce brought in a Project Debut turntable, Silverline Prelude floor standing speakers (retail for $1499 per pair) which will be raffled off at an upcoming meeting, and an Audio Research PH5 phono preamplifier.
Steve Gooding brought in the club's reference integrated amplifier.
Bob Prager brought his Musical Fidelity model X-LPS "can shaped" phono preamplifier.
Sam Papadas brought in the club's speaker cables and homemade interconnects.

The listening session started using CD's, utilizing the Lexicon and AMR.  This went on for well over an hour, and during this session interconnects between the DAC and the integrated amplifier were swapped in and out, and differences were noticed.  It was then onto vinyl selections.  These used the Debut turntable, with the Mobile Fidelity preamp, but the Audio Research PH5 was much better (should be because it costs a lot more), so that was used for most of the listening.  During this listening, the cables between the phono preamp and the integrated amp were swapped in and out, and again differences were heard.

The general listening impressions from some attendees was that the speakers had a remarkably dynamic, room filling presentation, spacious soundstage, and acceptable bass in the relatively large room.   The club's integrated tube amplifier did an excellent job driving the speakers with little if any distortion when played at elevated volumes.  The system presented enough resolution to easily demonstrate differences in cables and gear that was demonstrated.

Toward the end of the listening sessions, a guest from "Blessed to Be a Blessing (Jason Lutes) described a full 18-wheeler "truckload" of new vinyl they are selling (hopefully to a collector as one lot), wanting to make about $750,000 or more for their charity.

The club thanks our members for bringing in their equipment for a great afternoon of learning and listening, and to Virtual Properties for once again hosting a club meeting.

Thomas Horner
Secretary, A-V Club of Atlanta