

On Sunday, February 18, 2018, the monthly meeting of the Audio-Video Club of Atlanta was held at the Dunwoody North Driving Club clubhouse. This meeting featured equipment from Dynamic Sound Associates, Studio Electric, and Tweek Geek. We had a good crowd of about 40 members and guests present, including two new members and six members with less than six months attending our meetings. The presenters were from DSA: David Scholnik and Douglas Hurlburt (provided electronics); from Studio Electric: David MacPherson (speakers, large and bookshelf); and from Tweek Geek: Kevin Walsh (provided the DAC which is built in Italy, and the cabling and power cords). This secretary was unable to attend this meeting, so these minutes are derived from some excellent notes taken by Marty Prystupa.

John Morrison, president, first made a couple of announcements. He presented the nominations for club officers: John Morrison, President; Chuck Bruce, VP Industry Relations; and Thomas Horner, Secretary. All the nominations were seconded from the floor. John also announced that the Facebook site for the Audio club is active, look for AAC group. You can also watch the current web site for upcoming events and activities.

Then the presentations and music listening began!

- David Scholnik mentioned that there were some minor changes in the equipment from their visit last year. Improvements in the power amp, a new DAC, upgraded power box, and speakers. The direct drive VPI turntable had three arms, two with stereo cartridges and one with a mono cartridge.
- David played vinyl alternating between the different cartridges, of interest was how well the mono recording sounded. Overall, the sound was one of the best at our meetings. The room was set up with the audience facing the tennis courts, which resulted in a small bass boom in the alcove near the swimming pool side of the room. David did a fine job of selecting the correct records and digital files to keep the group's interest. Club members had an opportunity to hear their records through the system. There were more converts for Stevie Ray Vaughn's Tin Pan Alley (it rattled the windows)!
- David MacPherson gave a short review of his background and philosophy towards speaker design. He designed and built speaker systems professionally for Lincoln Center, Kennedy Center and was the audio engineer for the Utah Symphony. Towards the end of the program, David played music through the bookshelf speakers. The sound was amazing for their size and threw a wide soundstage, and yet they cost only about \$2400 per pair.
- During the meeting the amplifiers shut down. Doug Hurlburt discussed why the protection system in the amps were triggered. The sun coming in from the windows heated up the back of the amps and caused the temperature circuit to trip. The amps are 125 watts per channel Class A and the temperature circuit is a safety design to prevent the damage to the amplifiers. The solution was to strategically place a box in front of the amps to block the sun. Music continued for the remainder of the event.

The equipment that was listened to included these items:

Phono Cartridges

Ortofon: MC A95 (\$6,500) and Cadenza Mono (\$1,280).
Miyajima Laboratories: Madake (\$5,995) and Zero-Mono (\$1,995).

Turntable and Tonearms

VPI Industries Avenger Reference "Magnetic Drive" with 12" Metal and 3D printed arms (\$30,000 which includes three tonearms).

Phono Preamplification

Dynamic Sounds Associates: Phono II (\$13,500).
Their web site is www.dynamicsounds-assoc.com

Digital Source (via Tweek Geek)

Aqua Hifi Formula DAC (\$14,000).
Their web site is www.tweekgeek.com

Power Conditioner & Room Treatments

Tweek Geek Dark Matter Power Purifier (\$6,500).
The Stein Harmonizer Room Treatments (\$2,995+).

Power Cords and Interconnect & Speaker Cables

All from Tweek Geek
1-meter interconnect: XLR (\$499) or RCA (\$429).
3-meter Speaker Wire (\$1286) plus (\$800) Bybee Terminations.
2-meter "Dark Energy" 14AWG power cord (\$915).

Line stage Preamplifier

Dynamic Sounds Associates Pre-I (\$16,500).

Power Amplifier

Dynamic Sounds Associates Amp I mono block power amplifiers (\$25,000 pair).

Loudspeakers

Studio Electric
FSX floor standing / 3-way loudspeakers (\$11,500).
Their web site is www.studio-electric.com

Equipment Racks and Stands

Kanso Audio Furniture: Hamoni, 5-space asymmetrical (\$10,804).
Heavy-duty amp stands (\$3,500 pair).

The refreshments were provided by the presenters and Dan. Thanks to Jim and others for assisting in setting up and cleaning the room. The club's very special thanks go to all these presenters and for letting us see and hear some great equipment.

Thomas Horner
Secretary, A-V Club of Atlanta