

On Sunday, February 19, 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 new woofer boxes designed and built by several members, plus an update on the PC Working Group. There were about 40 members and guests present at the meeting.

Our president, John Morrison, was ill, so Dennis Juranek handled the announcements and the business side of the meeting. He asked all present if there were any nominations for the officer positions of President, VP - Industry Relations, and Secretary. The current holders of those offices (John Morrison, Chuck Bruce, and Tom Horner) have already entered their names into nomination. There were no additional nominations from the floor. He also made a special announcement regarding the club speakers stating that they are available for loan to any member in good standing for their audition.

Dennis then spoke about the PC working group he is leading. It has had two meetings, and there are currently ten members. They are working on a project to identify the best methodology, software, and PC equipment for making quality RIPS from CDs. They have developed criteria for testing, determined several musical tracks to be used, and set up a process for each of the team members to follow when ripping CDs that will allow others to analyze and determine the best ways to do this. Once their testing is complete, they will publish information that will help all the members generate the best sounding rips. Proper ripping is important, and if done well, ripped CD's can sound as good as large expensive playback systems.

Lee Tingler was next, who showed a video he created with music on the building of the club speakers. It was an excellent presentation, even though it had to be shown on a small screen. Next up was Dennis, Sam Papadas, and Ed Stiles who described the design and building of the woofers that are meant to be used with the two way club speakers. They explained that in order to use these woofers, changes had to be made to the club two-way speakers (their personal units) to use with the woofer boxes, because the woofers require different characteristics of the upper end speakers. These woofers are about 200 pounds each, with a ten inch driver. Those who remembered listening to the club speakers last year know what a great pair of monitors that were developed. However they were a bit bass restricted. While they are very open, dynamic, and go down into the 50 Hz region, the deep bass was missing. These woofers added that bass.

There was then plenty of time to play music the presenters and those attending brought to the meeting. We were able to play music from a CD, CD-R, USB Flash Drive, and a portable hard drive. Music file formats included FLAC and WAV, although any digital format was possible with the use of the Oppo player. The amplifiers used were two homemade 25 watt per channel tube amps for the upper end, and an Audio Research 2-channel amp for the two woofers. A handmade active crossover was used. All of the interconnects and speaker cables were also handmade using silver cable with Teflon insulation.

Music was first played using the original club speakers to remind everyone what they sounded like. Then the same music was played over the modified two-way with the 10 inch woofer boxes that provided the deep bass. Feedback received since the meeting is that this was one of our most popular meetings. Everyone seemed to really enjoy the fact that lots of music was played. There were many comments about the quality of the system, including some that said that it was the best sound they had ever heard in that room. There was no raffle at this meeting.

The club thanks our presenters for a great afternoon of learning and listening, and more thanks to Virtual Properties for the use of their training room, and to the volunteers who helped move and set up the woofers.

Thomas Horner  
Secretary, A-V Club of Atlanta