

On Sunday, February 19, 2017, the monthly meeting of the Audio-Video Club of Atlanta was held at the Dunwoody North Driving Club clubhouse. This meeting featured equipment by Bryston electronics, Ryan speakers, DH Labs wire, and Target stands. Our main presenter was Mike Burns of Wolfsong Audio, along with Gary Dayton from Bryston and David Lakin, Atlanta representative for Bryston. We had a great crowd of about 50 members and guests present, including at least two new members.

John, our club president, announced that the March meeting on the 19<sup>th</sup> will feature Robert Cunningham's creations, and will be at the Dunwoody location. Two officer positions need to be filled in April elections, treasurer and vice president. We had a new member nominated for treasurer, Michael Dean, and longtime member Mark Chaffin was nominated for VP. There were no more nominations from the floor. Voting will be done using the web site, and requires a quorum of active members, so please go online and vote. John then introduced our first presenter, Mike.

Here is the equipment list of what we listened to:

Bryston:

4B Cubed power amplifier (newest dual channel model), retails for \$5700  
BP-26 Preamplifier with MPS-2 power supply  
BDA-3 DAC, retails for \$3500  
BDP Pi Streamer, retails for \$1300  
NC-20 Phono Stage

Ryan Speakers:

R610 2-way book shelf, retails for \$2K per pair  
R630 3-way floor stand model, retails for \$5K per pair

Cables were DH labs Silver Sonic and Air Matrix

Stands for the Ryan R610s were the Target Audio HS 28"

Mike spoke of his new shop in Dawsonville (near the outlet mall off Route 400) which has a beautiful showroom above his garage (this secretary visited his shop after the meeting). He has been in the audio business for over 20 years, including seven years with his own business. Wolfsong Audio sells new audio products and used equipment along with turntable setup and other services. His website is <http://www.wolfsongaudio.com>.

Gary from Bryston gave us a brief history of the company, which is in the Toronto, Canada area. John Russel, Sr., a laid off NASA engineer, bought the company in the 1970's. He built an amp that won in a "amp shootout", and with Stewart Taylor (chief engineer) and his three sons, grew the business. Their research department is the largest (in number of engineers) in Canada. They made their name in building amps, and built a reputation for longevity and durability of their products. Most products come with a 5 to 20-year warranty, with a 100-hour burn-in for all new products before they leave the factory. Their primary design philosophy is accuracy – be faithful to the original recording.

We first listened to a lot of music using the Bryston electronics and the smaller R610 Ryan speakers. Despite a very large room with many people, the sound was great and filled the room. We listened to various tracks with different sampling rates to give the DAC (BDA-3) a good workout, and to see how it easily picked up the proper sampling.

We then held a free(!) raffle giving away Bryston, Ryan, and DH Labs branded items including mugs, shirts, and a 1.0 M pair of DH Labs BL-1 Series II RCA interconnects.

After the raffle, we switched to the larger Ryan speakers and enjoyed another hour of listening to music, and they sounded great also, with a bit more bass because they are a larger speaker. Mike mentioned that the Ryan's do not give a "five minute" wow to a first-time listener, but are very enjoyable over the long term.

Toward the end of the meeting, John Morrison asked if members would like him to prepare a presentation on how he is doing “needle” drops quite cheaply. He can do these with about \$200 worth of equipment (except for the cost of the turntable setup). The membership said yes, do it!

The club gives many thanks to everyone who brought refreshments, and especially to Mike, Gary, and David for letting us see and hear some great equipment, and for the raffle goodies. Also, thanks to all those who helped set up.

Thomas Horner  
Secretary, A-V Club of Atlanta