

On Sunday, March 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 featured the new Aragon 8008 power amp produced by Indy Audio Labs, who have purchased the Aragon and Acurus brand names. The presenter was to be Rick Santiago, but he was unable to attend due to a family emergency. However, he did ship the club a new Aragon 8008 for us to audition at this meeting. The Aragon 8008 is a 200/400 watt dual-monoblock power amplifier which includes a state-of-the art Indy Labs home network connection technology called E2C or "Enhanced Ethernet Control". This allows for external control and status monitoring of the amplifier and may be connected to an iPad or other PC type device (wired or wireless). The amp has single-ended and balanced inputs, and is priced at \$4400. With no formal presentation, there was once again a lot of music listening using equipment and music selections brought in by members. The equipment used is listed below in more detail. There were about 35 folks present, including a new member and a couple of first time visitors.

As always, the president, John Morrison was first up with some announcements. John said that the club's new web site is up and running and members can now access it for information about the club, meeting dates and events, paying annual dues, and utilizing the many forums for discussions. This year the club's vice president and treasurer officers are up for election. There is only one nomination for each office, Dennis Juranek for VP, and Paul Tarver for treasurer. John asked for nominations from the floor but there were none. The voting will be done on the web site using a "survey", which will give the voter an opportunity to write in a candidate.

John then mentioned the Canlanta, 2013 event being held locally on May 4. The April 21 meeting will feature VTL/Nordost/Martin at a new shop, Sight and Sound Gallery located near downtown, and the DIY meeting (equipment builders) on May 19 will be held at the Dunwoody North Driving Club's clubhouse because it is larger than the training room. Chuck announced that the reel-to-reel tape program on June 30 with mastering engineer Paul Stubblebine is on track (no pun intended). He also announced that a local restaurant (Hickory House in North Lake area) has offered the use of a room for a used equipment sale.

After listening to a few music selections brought in by members, John introduced the equipment being used and who supplied it (in addition to the Aragon):  
Horton McCurdy brought in his Oppo BDP 105 Multiplayer (Universal) Disk Player.  
Howard Strader brought in his Magnepan 3.6 Speakers (these are for sale used).  
John Morrison brought in his Adcom GFP 750 pre-amp designed by Nelson Pass (also for sale).  
Sam Papadas brought in the club's speaker cables and homemade interconnects.

The listening session used CD's, DVD-Audio, and SACD's as source. We first utilized the Adcom preamp between the Oppo and the Aragon. It was suggested to connect the Oppo directly to the power amp and this was done using balanced interconnects. The sound did improve. After playing several more selections, the balanced interconnect being used was replaced with the club's homemade interconnects, and again folks thought the sound was even better. The listening continued until it was time for the raffle of CD's donated by Phil Muse (about 4 pm).

After the raffle, there was still more listening to all types of music from various digital formats. The Oppo was able to handle them all, and the Aragon handled the sometimes challenging to drive Magnepan speakers with ease. According to some, these products matched each other very nicely, providing spacious dynamics, accuracy, and good bass for a "panel" speaker not often noted for deep bass.

The club thanks our members for bringing in their equipment and a special thanks to Rick for shipping the Aragon 8008, and to Phil Muse for the raffle items. It was another great afternoon of mainly listening. Our thanks also to Virtual Properties for once again hosting a club meeting.

Thomas Horner  
Secretary, A-V Club of Atlanta