

On Sunday, March 19, 2017, the monthly meeting of the Audio-Video Club of Atlanta was held at the Dunwoody North Driving Club clubhouse. This secretary was unable to attend, so these minutes are based on notes from member Gary Young. The meeting featured one of the club's hard working members in the audio world in Atlanta, Robert Cunningham.

First up was John Morrison who welcomed all present to the meeting. The first order of business was to officially notify all members of the two new board members of the A-VCOA. Mark Chaffin is the new Vice President replacing Dennis Juranek, and Michael Dean is the new Treasurer replacing Paul Tarver. John asked all for a round of applause in appreciation of the many years of service to the club, well deserved I might add. John also made announcements that certain duties he has been doing were going to be delegated to the two new board members. The maintenance of the club's website will now be handled by the secretary, and the new VP would be charged with finding a new location for the club's meetings.

John announced that the April meeting will feature offerings from Dynamic Sounds Associates. They are an audio manufacturer from Naples, Florida with a high-end line of electronics, including amps, pre-amps, phono stages, and they will also bring a new three tone armed VPI turntable. The May meeting will offer a scaled down version of last springs "Canlanta" headphone show.

John announced that he would be stepping down as President at the end of his term and challenged the club members to be more of a part of the future of the club. The question of the club selling some of its current equipment (the tube amp, subwoofers, and subwoofer amps was mentioned as a possibility.

Richard Cunningham – Unchained was the theme of the day.

Richard has a thriving business running a repair shop and building tube amps and preamps for sale and offers restored and modified turntables. He had brought two Techniques SP 25's today. He has quite an array of offerings.

It was a real treat to not only see but to enjoy the music coming from a real pair of the historical Altec "Voice of the Theatre" speaker system in our presence. A little background: The Altec "Voice of the Theatre" speaker series has a storied past. It is famous for its super high efficiency and lifelike sound, produced by a huge compression driver and 15-inch woofer mounted in a big, boxy enclosure. The speaker was adopted by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences as the industry standard for playback in movie theaters in the mid-1950's.

Robert's pair were equipped with the following components: The top end features a JBL 175 driver with an Altec 1217-1290 horn assembly. The mid-range on each of his speakers is an Altec 329A called a Sectoral Horn assembly which provided adequate loading and unit power driving capability from 300 Hz up to 3K Hz. The low frequencies come from an Altec 515. Altec's literature states that it is "without equal" for the smooth, efficient reproduction of bass tones at high power levels; a quality of extreme importance in the design of large, full range sound systems for voice and music reproduction.

Albums played today included cuts from Frank Sinatra's "The Early Years", The Doors: "The Doors" album, and Holst's The Planets, conducted by Leopold Stokowski.

Richard's demos were through his own preamp and amplifiers. He has two preamps, Model P-One and Model P-Two. He used several of his amp designs starting with a whopping 2-watt unit, a 6-watt, and a 14-watt using Dynaco original A-410 output transformers and EL 34s in a push pull design. All quite lovely sounding with the vintage Aztec's. All the amps are under his brand "Cunningham Audio" and are for sale. For more on this, see his website: <http://www.cunninghamaudio.net>.

The club gives many thanks to everyone who brought refreshments, to Gary Young for his notes, and of course our presenter, Robert Cunningham!

Thomas Horner
Secretary, A-V Club of Atlanta