

On Sunday, October 26, 2014, the monthly meeting of the Audio-Video Club of Atlanta was held at the Audio-Video Representatives, Inc. (AVR Distributing) offices in Marietta, Georgia. Our hosts for the afternoon were Al Davis, VP of AVR, and Jeff Paiva, Senior Trainer for Epson America. They provided us with most informative audio-for-video and video presentations featuring products sold by AVR. There were about 30 folks present at the meeting, including a couple of first time visitors.

Up first was John, president, at 2 pm. John thanked the two presenters for coming and especially Al for opening his offices for this meeting. John thanked Paul Tarver who contacted Al to set up this meeting. After several announcements about upcoming meetings and the club's sponsored piano concert in December, John introduced our host, Al Davis.

Al first gave us a bit of his background. He got his MBA in Atlanta, and started work in 1967 in the audio field. He has distributed and represented many audio manufacturers during his career, and now is VP at AVR. Al talked both extensively and in-depth about how to achieve great surround sound. He discussed most of the different surround setups, advised on how to set up speakers and sub-woofers, and explained room correction in detail. He told us how the use of anechoic chambers can assist in speaker design, but mentioned that sometimes the marketing folks "override" the engineers when a final speaker design is chosen. Canada has a government owned chamber that many Canadian speaker manufactures use, and that is one reason many of their speakers sound similar.

Other items he mentioned was to avoid use of automatic speaker setup programs (now in most AV receivers and processors), but if you do use them to be sure to check the results manually. He recommended smaller and "faster" subwoofers over the use of subwoofers with large (greater than 8 inch) drivers. He mentioned a couple of speaker manufacturers AVR represents including BG Radia planar speakers and custom made Triad speakers. Other lines he represents include Integra,electronics, (amplifiers, receivers, Blu-ray and CD players), screens by Vutech and Severson, Vaco and Vido switchers, and various interconnects. AVR's web address is <http://www.av-rep.com>. Al also discussed the latest surround sound format called Dolby Atmos which features "above you" (in the ceiling) speakers. He talked about the basic design of a home theater including the shape of the room (rectangular!) and the placement of subwoofer(s).

Then it was Jeff's turn and he presented the different types of video characteristics of film and digital movies. Jeff trains the technicians who repair and calibrate Epson projectors, but is also (like Al) a great fan of the movies. He shared examples of the different color balances, picture formats, and screen sizes using selected movies. He went on to give us many tips and tricks for use in our own systems. These included how to position your projector (level with top of screen for most brightness), projector placement (closer the better to the screen, within reason), and for true home theater effect the minimum screen size needs to be 120 inches diagonal. We were then treated to several film clips from "classic" movies to the latest blockbuster. During the clips, Jeff explained what we should be looking for to see if we are indeed viewing a first class home theater. For this demonstration, we used the Epson 6030 3-LCD projector with attached anamorphic lens option. This projector is an excellent value at only \$3500 retail. The electronics (receiver and Blu-ray player) were from Integra (Onkyo's "premium" line), and speakers by Triad.

These minutes do not list all the items Jeff spoke on. A separate document in the web site meeting archives has his detailed notes he used to give us all this great information and advice.

As the meeting wound down, members went off to look at a less expensive Epson projector in a conference room (model 4030), or corralled Al and Jeff to answer more questions. The meeting ended after 5 pm, as folks wanted to continue to get more information.

The club gives many thanks to these two presenters, and again to Al for hosting it at his place of business. Also, thanks to everyone who brought the refreshments!

Thomas Horner
Secretary, A-V Club of Atlanta