

On Sunday, October 20, 2013, the monthly meeting of the Audio-Video Club of Atlanta was held at the Virtual Properties meeting room in Duluth. This meeting showcased some of the Verastarr Reference Audio Products, including the brand new Tenzin Line Array speaker, a new, yet unnamed, 500 watts per channel, dual mono, tube/digital hybrid amplifier, and hand crafted Verastarr cables. With a good crowd on hand, it was an opportunity to see some great new products, and to listen to some good music. This secretary was unable to attend, so these notes are from Marty Prystupa. My thanks for filling in!

The meeting started at 2 pm with John Morrison up first with a few club announcements. John reminded members of the two surveys currently on the club's web site, and to look on the web site for upcoming meeting information. We still desperately need volunteers for the refreshment and program committees for 2014. He reminded folks about the amplifier "naming" contest. All attendees were able to enter a contest to name the new Verastarr amp by placing an entry on a 3X5 card with your name, telephone number, and two choices for the name. If one of your names is chosen by Verastarr, you will win a 5 foot Silver Reference Power Cable worth \$400. Finally, John thanked our presenter, Mike Powell with Verastarr.

Mike first played some music selections he chose, and then gave us some details on the equipment we were listening to. Verastarr is an Atlanta based audio company, and all their equipment is made in the US. The cables being used are foil cables which were a breakthrough for Verastarr. The foil reduces skin effect, and a 2 inch foil is the "same" as 12 gauge wire. The amplifier is a dual mono design in one box, with a digital output module and a tube front end. It is rated at 500 watts per channel into 8 ohms, and its targeted retail price is about \$6000. The Tenzin speakers have 9 mid-range drivers, 30 (!) tweeters, and a 125 watt powered 8 inch sub-woofer. It retails for \$20,000 per pair. Our front end was an Oppo BDP 103 connected to a Wadia 121 Decoding Computer (DAC).

Most of the rest of the afternoon was spent listening to music both from Mike's collection and the many selections brought in by club members. During the listening, the Verastarr digital cable was replaced by a club-made digital cable. However, with little time for system set up, the differences heard were inconclusive. It was felt that the Tenzin Line Array speaker was so coherent that this was a testament to some really good design. Being very large speakers, set-up is crucial to get them to sound their best.

There was a raffle at this meeting, which included a 1 meter pair of Verastarr's Silverstream RCA Interconnects (market value \$199) donated by Mike, plus a nice selection of CDs courtesy of our own Dr. Phil.

The meeting concluded at 5 pm.

The club again gives many thanks Mike for coming out to present these products to us, and for his generosity in providing the RCA jacks for first-comers as well as the RCA cable for the raffle. It is always exciting to club members to be one of the first to hear new products from a manufacturer. We also want to thank those who assisted in the setup and coordination of the meeting including Chuck Bruce and Sam Papadas, and also to Justin Kim for loaning us the new amplifier. Special thanks to Jo for saving the day by providing some missing remote controls. The club also thanks Chuck Bruce, Steve Gooding, Bob Prager, and Paul Tarver for the refreshments, and Marty for being note taker.

Thomas Horner
Secretary, A-V Club of Atlanta