

On Sunday, November 15, 2015, the monthly meeting of the Audio-Video Club of Atlanta was held at the Dunwoody North Driving Club clubhouse, in the Dunwoody North subdivision. This meeting featured special guest Kevin Berg from Elusive Disc and also club members listening to “unique” vinyl. There were over 30 folks present including two first-time guests.

Up first was John, president, at 2 pm. He thanked Kevin and reminded members of the upcoming Christmas party at Lee Tingler’s home on December 6 at 2 pm, for members and their guests.

Kevin began his presentation giving a brief history of his career in audio, starting in 1991. He has been a distributor, producer, and/or wholesaler for several high-quality record/CD/SACD production companies including JVC and DCS. He is more of a business oriented person versus an audio hardware “expert”. He now works for Elusive Disc out of Indiana which specializes in a wide variety of high quality recordings (vinyl, CD, XRCD, and SACD) plus playback equipment and audio accessories (cables, etc.). He also owns an import business of various audiophile labels such as Opus 3 Records based in Sweden. He then offered all A-VCOA members a 15% discount on any order (enter AVCOA15% in the notes of your order), with free shipping if order is over \$100. Everyone was very happy to hear that!

Kevin discussed the vinyl “revival” that started in the mid-2000’s and is still happening, with some bands putting new issues onto vinyl in addition to other media. Vinyl sales are still increasing, but remain a small percentage of overall music sales. Kevin spoke on the issues with licensing music – usually done by territory and not world-wide which would make sales grow faster. However, Amazon has recently caused these licensing issues to “open up” which could help other companies grow.

The system we used to listen to the “unique” vinyl that members brought was the club’s turntable (Denon 1000 with Magnepan Unipivot tonearm and Grado cartridge), the club’s integrated amplifier, the club built two-way speakers and subwoofers, and Chuck’s EAR 912 phono preamp. We listened to records both at 33 1/3 RPM and at 45 RPM. The music heard (this is not a complete list of titles or folks who brought them) included the Doors, a classical guitar trio (on 45 RPM featuring Al DiMeola, John McLaughlin, and Paco Delucia) from “Afternoon of an Elf”, an Errol Garner mono recording (John Morrison), the single version of the Beatles “Revolution” (Paul Tarver), a 45 RPM direct-to-disc disco album that was on white (not black) vinyl (Tom Horner), Shiva Sharma, a Bach Toccata and Fugue piece (Tom Allen), a couple of original 45’s (Mark Milner), and Madeleine Peyroux.

After a break, we switched amplifiers to give John Boehnke’s Red Dragon S500 stereo power amplifier an audition. He had won (!) this amplifier and wanted our opinion of it. It is a switching class ‘D’ amplifier that has gotten good reviews. It indeed sounded really good, and with the additional power (it is 250 watts per channel), it made the Toccata and Fugue sound excellent through the club speakers. We continued to listen to various cuts until it was time to wrap up.

The club gives many, many thanks to Kevin, and to Chuck for arranging this. Also, our thanks to everyone who brought the refreshments and the club’s equipment and to John B. for letting us audition his new amplifier!

Thomas Horner
Secretary, A-V Club of Atlanta