

On Sunday, November 20, 2016, the monthly meeting of the Audio-Video Club of Atlanta was held at the Virtual Properties Realty training room at their offices in Duluth. This meeting featured Al Davis of Audio-Video Representatives. His special guests were Jeff Pauvia, Epson's national trainer/calibration expert, and Scott Sefton, Esoteric/Integra's Western Product manager. There were about 25 folks present.

John, our club president, was under the weather, so Chuck Bruce welcomed a new member present and thanked Paul Tarver for setting up this meeting for us. He thanked the three presenters for coming to see us and to show off their equipment. Jeff had come from Boston, and Scott from Indianapolis! The annual Christmas Party will be on December 11 (this was later changed to a Winter Party on January 8, 2017).

Our first presenter was Scott, who gave us a detailed description of how Esoteric builds its products. Their factory builds everything from "the ground up", with extensive quality control, and they even use the highest quality solder! Using a pair of Genelec speakers and an older model Integra integrated amp, he gave us a demonstration of the Esoteric N-O5 Network Audio Player. This unit has very high quality DAC's and allows you to connect to your network to listen to streaming or stored music, create a library for your music collection, and to store it on an outboard NAS (Network Attached Storage) array. It retails for about \$6K. Note that it does not have its own hard drives, and Scott told us that this was done because storage requirements vary by customer. Esoteric has an extensive line of CD players, SACD players, DAC's, Transports, preamps, and amplifiers (more than 35 total), which can be reviewed at their web site at <http://www.esoteric-usa.com>.

Up next was Al Davis and Jeff, who had set up a temporary "home theater" in the meeting room using a portable screen and the new Epson 4K "enhanced" projector, model 6040UB. It is not "true" native 4K (much more expensive to have), but uses pixel movement to obtain a 4K picture. This model has HDR (High Dynamic Range) capability, which earlier 4K monitors did not. You need this to get the full benefit of watching a 4K source, like from an Ultra Hi-Def player (models out from Samsung and Philips, which was the one we used today). They explained that the HDR standards are still somewhat in "flux", there is no set international standard. Dolby uses a chip based system; the others are software based.

He showed off the projector's abilities, despite being in a somewhat bright room even with the lights off. Very nice – so nice that this Secretary just bought the consumer model (the 5040) for his theater. The 6040 (and 5040) have motorized lens controls (earlier models were manual), so setup is easier since you can control the lens from the remote control. They showed us how to do basic calibration on your projector, brightness and contrast for example. Focus is critical for a front projector. Epson's default "color mode" is "bright cinema", which may or may not be appropriate for your room.

Jeff and Al explained the differences between various screens with and without ALR, Angular Light Reflection, and showed us various samples of them. The screen's gains can vary from .85 to 1.25. Which one you choose depends on your home theater room and lighting conditions. We also discussed film rates and ratios, and that a full 4K movie takes about 50 TB (50000 GB) to hold (uncompressed).

The club gives many thanks to everyone who brought refreshments, and especially to Al, Jeff, and Scott for coming to see us today and letting us see and hear their equipment. Also, thanks to Chuck and Paul, and the rest of those who helped set this up.

Thomas Horner
Secretary, A-V Club of Atlanta