

On Sunday, January 11, 2009, the first meeting of the Audio-Video Club of Atlanta was held at the Sound and Cinema dealer in Alpharetta, Georgia. There were 20+ members and prospective members present to hear two presentations by Ed Scruggs (owner of Sound and Cinema) and Paul Tarver, founding member.

First up at 2 PM was John Morrison, who handled the business meeting of the club before the presentations began. He introduced the founding members that were at the meeting, and then handed out a copy of the approved bylaws of the club to all present. He discussed the need for a club webmaster (we have an address set up but no actual site as yet), a Director of Logistics (to help set up equipment, etc. for meetings), and volunteers to assist the Program Director who is currently Nick Arroyo. Denny Meeker then announced that the February meeting (on 2/8/09) will be held at the conference room of John Morrison's place of business, and will feature Veristar (not sure of spelling), and Hot Rod Audio (who do custom modifications to audio equipment).

Next up was Ed Scruggs who spoke on the current state of the art of home theater. He handed out a sheet that detailed the differences between "regular" DVD's and the Blu-ray high definition DVD's. The sheet also described the features of Dolby TrueHD, which is a lossless coding technology used on many Blu-ray DVD's which gives high quality audio to the program on the disk. The playback is identical to uncompressed PCM, in up to seven channels. Ed also spoke on how to size your screen in a home theater room. You do not want to have too large or too small a screen and a good rule of thumb is the maximum width of the screen should be one-half the distance from the screen to the viewers' eyes. The viewers' eyes should move as the action on the screen moves, but not their heads. He also discussed the second page of his handout which described the current HDMI connection standards, a one wire solution to connecting your source to your video and audio units.

Paul Tarver then briefly introduced his program which was the showing of a DVD with the Beatles last "public" concert on the roof top of Apple Recording studios in London. This was filmed for the "Let it Be" movie, but Paul's DVD had rarely seen footage of the concert on it.

The group then divided up into three, one to watch the Beatles recording, one to see a demonstration of Blu-ray "versus" regular DVD in the shop's main home theater demonstration room (it was no contest), and a listening session with the latest Sony SACD player (which is reasonably priced) in the high-end audio demonstration room.

The club thanks Ed for hosting a great program and for opening his shop to us!

Thomas Horner  
Interim Secretary, A-V Club of Atlanta