

On Sunday, October 25, 2009, the monthly meeting of the Audio-Video Club of Atlanta was held in the training room of the Virtual Properties Realty offices in Duluth, Georgia. There were over 30 members and guests attending to hear three informative presentations by Tommy Joe Anderson, Jim Smith, and our own Phil Muse.

First up at 2 PM was John Morrison, who handled the business meeting of the club before the presentations and listening began. He announced updated membership information, including a membership dues "deal" for new members that included paying for 2010 membership and getting the rest of 2009 free. He discussed several up-coming member-only special events and field trips, and our meeting schedule for the rest of 2009.

Next up was our first presenter, Tommy Joe Anderson. Tommy Joe is the producer of the Atlanta Music Scene program on WABE-FM. His presentation covered what some call "high definition" (HD) radio, but the HD really stands for "hybrid digital". The signal strength of the HD signal is about 60% of the regular station signal. You need to purchase a HD-compatible radio, of which there are several on the market including models from Teac, Sony, and Boston Acoustics. Similar to HD-television, one station can actually transmit several HD radio signals. For example, WABE (public radio in Atlanta) has three channels, 90.1-1 (classics and NPR news), 90.1-2 (all music), and 90.103 (all talk). Tommy handed out several information sheets on HD radio, including a listing of all the stations in the Atlanta area and in Georgia. There are about 52 stations in Georgia broadcasting 77 HD channels.

Our next presenter was Jim Smith, author of the book "Getting Better Sound". This book is meant to show folks how to get better sound from their existing equipment. The book is packed with tips on how to do this, from setting up your speakers, treating your room, and many explanations on why certain equipment sounds good (or bad). Jim has been in the audio industry since the 1960's, and has worked for high-end audio manufacturers such as Audio Research, Magnapan, and AvantGarde (he was the US distributor for these very high-end horn speakers).

Some of the topics he mentioned during his presentation are also listed on his web site, <http://www.getbetersound.com>. I repeat that list here:

- How to make your system's most important component work for you.
- The one thing your system must have to be musically satisfying.
- If you're past 50, can you hear well enough to care about sound quality?
- Which FREE loudspeaker/component tweaks will yield huge dividends.
- Over 30 detailed room/speaker set-up tips that will improve your sound.
- Why you need to have an audio system "road map."
- How to diagnose problems when your dealer/technician isn't available.

Jim also discussed the difference between pink noise (equal volumes per octave), and white noise (equal volume for all frequencies), how to use a "grid" to better place your speakers in your listening area, that getting the bass right helps to "lock in" the rest of the sound, that more than one subwoofer is needed if you use them, and how to voice (combine) subwoofers and your main speakers. He calls his book his "manual" for improving your system's sound.

Our final speaker was Phil Muse who gave the audience some excellent new classical selections he recommends. We played the music on equipment (preamp, amp, and front ends) owned by members, including Phase Tech speakers and an Audio Research SP3 preamp.

It was another great meeting and the club especially thanks Tommy Joe, Jim, and Phil for working on three excellent presentations and giving us a lot to think about and enjoy.

As information, the September 13, 2009 meeting was held at Meridian's Austell, Georgia headquarters where their newest video projector was demonstrated. This secretary was unable

to attend due to work commitments. On September 26, a "field trip" to 'Patina' Designer Furniture Showroom in Atlanta revealed a huge collection of antique and historical audio and video equipment from around the world and dating from the early 1900's. Wow, a sight to behold, with vintage equipment literally stacked to the ceiling of this warehouse. Our host was Imre Vanyl, the owner of this vast collection. Members walked around for hours looking at all the equipment. Our many thanks to Imre for sharing this with us. There was another field trip on November 14 to an event hosted by Zu Audio (secretary was not able to attend). Finally, the first annual Christmas party was hosted by Tom Horner at his home on December 13. This was just a social event, with no program. We all enjoyed the Rob Orbison DVD (brought by John Morrison) shown on the 100 inch home theater screen. I enjoyed it so much that I bought the Blu-Ray version of the DVD the next day.

Thomas Horner
Interim Secretary, A-V Club of Atlanta