

On Sunday, July 11, 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 about 25 members and guests attending to hear two presentations, one covering hardware by Michael Gill, a member of our club whose products can be found on his "Audio Circle" site; and one on the history of jazz by our "in-house" jazz critic and expert, Don Smith.

John Morrison (president) opened the meeting at 2 PM and spoke on the status of Denny Meeker in Alabama (a long time member), who had a recent eye operation. He discussed the possibility of some members visiting his lakeside cottage. John announced that the annual club picnic is on August 15 at the home of Tom and Dwana Horner (yours truly). John also took names of members wishing to join in a program committee meeting to be held later this month.

First up was Michael Gill who provided us with a listen to some pretty interesting and cost effective equipment. He introduced the club members to a tube integrated amplifier made by Dayens, manufactured in Serbia. It costs 220 Euro, but with taxes, duty, etc. this comes to about \$500 US. Two other solid state amplifiers named "Ampilo" were shown, one for \$599 ("basic") and one for \$699 ("plus" with better capacitors). They both are rated at 25 watts per channel. Finally, he showed us the Arte Forma tube amplifier which he found on Audiogon but which Michael now distributes here, after he made contact with his now business associate Norman in Taiwan. This amplifier uses point-to-point wiring which makes it not suitable for shipping (from Taiwan). They are working on changing this. It is a 45 watt per channel integrated tube amplifier, with self-bias tuning (6550 model). The next generation will have manual bias but offer more power. What also caught the attention of the members were the tiny Dayens bookshelf speakers with Peerless Drivers and beautiful real wood cabinets that we used during the listening session. They punched way above their weight and at \$600 a pair seemed a very good price for these. They have a "big brother" that retails for \$1200 per pair. If you are interested in more details on this equipment, please call Michael at 404-840-6052.

Next up was Don Smith who gave an amazing "PowerPoint" presentation on the history of jazz and the various styles of this truly American music. These minutes cannot begin to cover all that he showed us. It was full of details on how jazz evolved through the years, and how the various forms of jazz were created and still exist today. We will have several of the outlines for his presentation at the Picnic for those who missed this terrific program.

There was a raffle of CD's donated by Phil Muse and Bill McCulloch, and as always everyone was a winner of at least one recording.

The club thanks Michael and Don for their presentations and all the work they did to set this all up, along with other club members, and to John Morrison for supplying the meeting space.

Thomas Horner
Secretary, A-V Club of Atlanta