

On Sunday, October 10, the monthly meeting of the Audio-Video Club of Atlanta was held at the Home Theater Works shop in Alpharetta, Georgia. There were about 30 members and guests attending to hear a presentation by a Marantz representative covering their Reference Series of audio gear. John Morrison (president) opened the meeting at 2 PM and made a few announcements about upcoming programs and the annual club Christmas Party at Lee Tingler's home.

John introduced our hosts, shop owners Seth and David Herold (a father and son team). They briefly described what they carry, their history (been in business about three years), and showed everyone around the shop. The Marantz representative, Jim Ludoviconi, was introduced and he spoke about his background (has been in audio many years representing many prestigious lines). His job is to get feedback from the field (dealers and consumers) about what they would like to see in products, and to represent the brand to the public and to the Marantz dealers.

He then described the Reference Series of products. They use no "op amps" but instead use "HDAM" modules that are essentially discreet component op amps. There are several major series in the Reference line, from quite expensive to quite affordable. The top series is separate components, including the SC-7S2 preamp (stereo control amplifier), MA-9S2 mono power amplifiers (two of them, of course), and the SA-7S1 SACD player. The second tier series is a separate preamp, the SC-11S1, the SA-11S2 SACD player, and the SM-11S1 stereo power amplifier. Finally, the PM-15S2 stereo integrated amplifier is the most affordable piece in the reference line. The pricing ranges from about \$24,000 for the top tier to \$10,000 for the middle tier, to \$2500 for the integrated amplifier.

After his brief introduction to the line, everyone was invited to listen to the three series in a couple of rooms. In the main room, the top series drove the Focal Electra Beryllium (tweeter) speakers. At the request of one member (I admit, it was me), the affordable integrated amplifier (which includes both MM and MC phone inputs) was placed in the main room for some extended listening. At the end of the session, as they sometimes say in Stereophile reviews, this secretary bought the review sample (sort of, I will get a new one in the box).

The club extends our many thanks to Seth and Davis for being great hosts, and to Jim for traveling down to Atlanta to show off some very nice equipment.

Thomas Horner
Secretary, A-V Club of Atlanta

Addendum:

This secretary did not attend the September meeting held at the Virtual Properties Realty training room on September 12, 2010. Robert Cunningham introduced two tube preamps, and he provided two power amps (Canary CA303 and Bedini BA803), and loudspeakers, that I understand from those present sounded excellent. His email contact information is audioex300b@yahoo.com, and his phone is 404-452-8256. On the web, his contacts are www.audioexchangeinc.com or www.cunninghamaudio.net. CD playback was on a Lexicon CD player owned by member Bill McCulloch.

Club member Dr. Tommy Joe Anderson then presented a program similar to the first day of his college classes in Music Appreciation. He had also arranged for attendees at this meeting to be eligible for 50% discounts on Spivey Hall tickets for performances from September through November. There was also a raffle of CD's and vinyl.