

On Sunday, November 21, 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 35 members and guests attending, including the eight presenters. The theme of this meeting was vintage and home-built audio equipment, and these presenters did a great job setting up and describing their equipment, after which we actually listened to each setup. First, 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. At the end of the presentations, there was a raffle where again everyone participating won at least one prize. We had CD donations by Dr. Phil Muse and Chuck Bruce, and Soundstings donated two heavy duty AC power cords. As always, the club gives many thanks to all the donors. Several attendees either joined the club or renewed their membership at this meeting.

Here is a brief description of what each presenter brought to show and all units were required to be in good working order and demonstrated to the group. Each presenter was given 5 to 15 minutes (including Q & A period) to describe and operate his or her vintage equipment.

Chuck Bruce – showed us Dynaco equipment including a PAS tube preamp, FM-5 Solid-State tuner, PAT 5 solid-state control preamp and 2 power amps (the Dyna 70 (tube) and Van Alstine mod ST 120). He also demonstrated a pair of A25 speakers from Dynaco. The electronics were mostly kit built and later modified per Frank Van Alstine designs.

Paul Tarver – showed us speakers he got “from the trash” which he refurbished with new parts as needed (capacitor for tweeter). They were KLH-20 speakers, a classic in their day. He also showed us a Kenwood receiver and a Rotel turntable.

Bob Prager – showed us a Heathkit amplifier and Heathkit tuner which he bought assembled. Heathkit sold audio and video kits for folks to put together in the 1950 to 1980 or so timeframe. He also showed us Polk speakers (Monitor 5's) and a Technics SL7 turntable. Bob may be our ultimate dumpster diver, coming up with some remarkable finds and putting them back to work.

Jeff Priluck – described himself as a “tuner” guy. He showed us two mint condition vintage tuners from Sherwood and Fisher (the X-100) which he said have different design philosophies. He also showed us Spica TC-50 speakers.

Steve Gooding – showed us Advent 4 speakers and a Lafayette tuner, along with an SAE pre amp and SAE power amp, and a Pioneer turntable, the PL-117D.

Ed Stiles – says he does a lot of modifications (mods) to older equipment, and had two systems to show us. The first was an Audio Research SP3 preamp (upgraded), Dynaco's Dynamark 4's (mono blocks versions of Stereo 70 amplifier), and these were driving Paradigm Reference Studio 20 V5 speakers (a recent model). The other system was a Dynaco ST-35 stereo amp (upgraded) driving Dynaco A10 speakers.

Phil Green and John Yeager – they showed us less expensive amplifiers for their day (Pilot amps) along with a Dynaco 70 power amp. The speakers (from John) were custom made, designed by the late Dr. Marshall Leach, noted EE and Audio professor at Georgia Tech (see note below about his passing). They also showed us Leak power amps and a Nirvana class A amplifier that used marine batteries (yes batteries) as a power source. He had altered (mod'd) that to use an AC power supply.

The club extends our thanks once again for the use of the training room, and to all our presenters for a fascinating look into the earlier days of high-end audio.

Thomas Horner
Secretary, A-V Club of Atlanta

Addendums to minutes from other members:

Chuck writes: The sound at this vintage equipment event was most impressive, and makes you wonder how far we've really come along in audio playback. The presenters gave excellent profiles of the gear and the history of each piece. This showcase gave insights into the creative minds and design features/concepts by the founders of our great industry. This is an excellent example of blending art, science, engineering, manufacturing and emotion. We'll definitely do this one again!

Please note that Dr. Leach passed away suddenly the weekend of this vintage showcase. This was a great loss to electronics education and the advancement of fine audio for over 30 years. (Note that on several past occasions Dr. Leach hosted local audiophiles at his lab and classroom for audio seminars and demonstrations that were enjoyed by all including several former students).

Web sites with information about Dr. Leach:

<http://www.ece.gatech.edu/media/news/release.php?id=5255>

http://www.ece.gatech.edu/faculty-staff/fac_profiles/bio.php?id=62

Dec. 2010 Holiday Party

There was a club Holiday party at the home of Lee Tingler on December 12 attended by about 25 people (members and guests). We enjoyed good food (including pot-luck dishes brought by those there), and a presentation of "Great Detectives of the Movies" by Dr. Phil who also gave everyone a surprise Christmas present under their home theater seat, and a free raffle where everyone one a DVD or CD. The club extends our thanks to Lee, our terrific host!