

On Sunday, July 17, 2011, the July monthly meeting of the Audio-Video Club of Atlanta was held at the offices and showrooms of Wagner Technology in Alpharetta, Georgia. There were about 30 members and guests in attendance. Wagner Technology is a custom home theater installation and dealer who also specializes in home automation, lighting systems, and computer networking. Our host was owner Drew Bardagly who showcased his top of the line A/V systems including the Wolf and Epson 9700 series projection systems and fine products from McIntosh, Integra, Sony, Peachtree Audio, REL, Niles Controls, Vienna Acoustics, along with others. His location has multiple showrooms and multiple open areas where one can audition both equipment and typical A/V layouts.

Up first was the A-V Club president John Morrison who made a couple of announcements. First, the annual club picnic will be held at the home of the Secretary on August 21, beginning at 1:30 pm. He also discussed the club's speaker cables which anyone can build using the plans provided by club members, and if someone has questions about them to see him.

John then introduced our host for the day, Drew Bardagly, and his wife Carla. Drew gave us a bit of background information on his career in A/V. He has been in A/V since the early 1970's, and he worked at Hi-Fi Buys for multiple years beginning in 1982. He started Wagner Technology in 1991 and has been there ever since. He then described the many equipment demonstration areas, including two full-fledged home theater rooms and a high-end audio room, and invited everyone to wander around to each of the rooms and enjoy demonstrations that either he or his staff would present. One point he made was about price. Wagner is part of a "buying group" that does \$14 billion in business every year with manufacturers, which means they can get excellent wholesale prices which they can leverage with the consumer, about the same as the "big box" stores. At the end of his presentation, Drew offered to host a swap sale for members with equipment to sell at his location. The club will definitely follow up on this generous offer.

We were then free to wander from room to room. The "high end" home theater was most impressive, with a Wolf Cinema LED projector and a 2.35:1 wide screen along with excellent sound. The other home theater featured the Epson 9700 LCD projector which also looked great. The audio room featured multiple brands of electronics and speakers, including McIntosh. There was such a wide variety of brands and models that this secretary could not note them all.

The club thanks our hosts for a great afternoon of food, listening, and camaraderie. A formal thank you letter was sent by our president and the VP of Industry Relations to our hosts.

Thomas Horner
Secretary, A-V Club of Atlanta