

On Sunday, June 24, 2012, the monthly meeting of the Audio-Video Club of Atlanta was held at the Virtual Properties Realty Training Room in Duluth, Georgia. This meeting featured a series of listening sessions using different turntables (two) and phono stages (six). There were a total of about 35 people present.

First up was our president, John Morrison, who handled the announcements and the business side of the meeting. John mentioned the July meeting with Jim Smith at MPower AV (a local dealer), and the August 19 picnic at Avatar Acoustics. He also discussed the annual "Emofest" trip (over Labor Day) hosted by Emotiva at their Franklin, TN location. He asked members to assist wherever possible to set up future meetings, and gave a special honorary club badge to Dwana Horner (the secretary's wife) who always attends with me. He also discussed the previous day's executive committee meeting, and that the members will need to approve the updated bylaws once they are drafted.

The folks who brought equipment to listen to were asked to show their piece(s) to those present. The club speakers were used, and Sam Papadas described the recent changes he made to their crossover and the length of the woofer port. Sam also brought a custom made phono stage he designed and built. He said that designing a phono stage is quite difficult. Chuck brought the amplifier used in the listening, a new Raysonic Integrated tube amp (has no phono stage) he has received for review. It is made in Hong Kong and retails for about \$3150, and is rated at 100 watts per channel (pretty high for a tube amp). Chuck also brought an Audio Research PH5 tube phono preamp (costs about \$2500), an NAD phono preamp (solid state – costs about \$170 but was not auditioned at the meeting), an Aargon 47K phono preamp (solid state), and a Project Debut III, which is a basic turntable that costs around \$400.

Ed Stiles brought in a modified Thorens TD-125 with RB300 arm and Grado cartridge. He also brought in a Bottlehead phono preamp which sells as a kit for \$370. Jason Agee brought his custom made tube phono preamp he bought with a regulator and power supply box. Jon Yeager was to bring in his latest full-fledged preamp, but it is still a work in progress. The power cords were from WireWorld, and the speaker cable and interconnects were the club's using braided silver wire.

Then there was much listening to many combinations of turntables and phono preamps. First up was the Project turntable, and even with this basic source, differences in the phono preamps could be heard. The Aargon, then Jason's, then the Bottlehead, then Sam's, and then finally the AR PH5 were listened to using the same record cut. The turntable was switched to the Thorens, and the five preamps were listened to again.

After all the critical listening was completed, the members present were then able to listen to cuts from records they had brought to the meeting. The turntable used was the Thorens, and for most of the time Sam's phono stage was used.

There was no raffle at this meeting. The club thanks all the members that took the time and effort to bring in their equipment, and again more thanks to Virtual Properties for the use of their training room, and to the volunteers who helped set up.

Thomas Horner
Secretary, A-V Club of Atlanta