

On Sunday, July 15, 2012, the monthly meeting of the Audio-Video Club of Atlanta was held at the offices and showroom of MPower AV in Alpharetta. This meeting featured a demonstration of some new NAD electronics and Totem speakers, a demonstration of the Vinyl Flat equipment owned by the club, and two presentations on the music of the Beatles and of that period by two members of the club. There were over 35 members and guests present at the meeting, including two folks who were at their first meeting.

Our president, John Morrison was first up with some announcements. John briefly spoke about the recent officers meeting and what was discussed, the club's upcoming meetings, and the August picnic at Avatar Acoustics.

John then introduced our presenters from MPower AV, Joe Saxon (General Manager) and Dave Striplin (President). The club had met at MPower AV in March, 2012, and this time we were able to listen to some of their just received products. Joe also announced that he is offering his showroom as an alternate meeting site for the club if the Virtual Properties training room is not available and also some special sale prices for the attendees. It was then moved and seconded that we make Dave and Joe Honorary members of the club. The suggestion was unanimously approved by the members present.

First demo'd was the NAD 390DD digital amplifier including NAD's MDC module which provides digital input from an HDMI source (we used CD's as a source for this session). We listened to this with the Totem Acoustics "Hawks" floor standing speakers (\$2950 per pair). An unusual feature of these speakers is the use of ball bearings as spikes. Next, we were treated to NAD's new, award-winning Visio iPod system which provides a neat and inexpensive way to have mobile iPod audio. We then listened to the Totem "Dream Catcher" bookshelf speakers (\$625 per pair depending on finish) using an NAD CD/Amp combination as a source.

To celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Beatles coming to America, we had two excellent presentations by two members of the club. First, Phil Green gave us a look back on American music at the time and the impact it made on the Beatles. He described how one DJ, Alan Freed (originally from Cleveland, Ohio), had a large impact on how music was played over the radio. He played the original artists (some of who were black) at a time when other stations would only play white artists. In the late 1950's, rock and roll was in a decline, but the music was still being played. Then the Beatles came along!

This led into a retrospective by Paul Tarver on the early Beatles, including the "skiffle" sound that led to their early popularity. The Beatles were influenced by Radio Luxemburg, which was DJ'd by Alan Freed. Paul played some very early live Beatles cuts, and explained how the group met. Paul told us that their producer, George Martin, wanted them to sing a cover song ("How Do You Do It" by Mitch Murray) but the group instead played an original song they wrote, "Please, Please Be Me". That is what ended up on their first album, and the rest is history!

Lee Scoggins was up next, where he described how to use the Vinyl Flat device, and reported that it works well. He gave a short demonstration of how it works, how to use it, and what to watch out for. He showed a record he had flattened that had been unplayable due to a bad warp near the beginning of the record.

Finally, there was an exciting raffle at this meeting, with the first item to be won being the Rega Fono Mini A2D (a quality moving magnet phono preamp with unbalanced and USB output) donated by MPower AV. Other prizes were a variety of CD's donated by club members.

The club thanks our presenters for a great afternoon of learning and listening, and to MPower AV for opening up their showroom for us to see and hear some great equipment and fascinating presentations.

Thomas Horner  
Secretary, A-V Club of Atlanta