

On Sunday, December 27, 2020, a meeting of the Atlanta Audio Club was held via "Zoom" due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The meeting was basically a round table discussion of various topics, and had about 20 participants. It started at 3 pm and lasted until 5 pm. Please note that this secretary did not attend the first 45 minutes of the meeting (OK, I forgot!), so the items from that time frame are from an audio recording of it made by one of our members (thanks David Snyder!).

Due to the nature of this meeting, these minutes will simply list items that were discussed in roughly the order they occurred.

### **Update on New Club Purchases**

The club president, Steve, gave an update on the club equipment purchase. The club has purchased several pieces of equipment in order to prepare for future in-person meetings. The idea is to not rely on club members to bring equipment to meetings where the presenter does not have all the equipment he/she needs to do their presentation. These have all been purchased, and will be listened to by the executive committee sometime in January. The items include:

- PS Audio Stratta, purchased to replace the club's integrated amp. The previous amp we had (a tube amp) was sold to a club member, so the net cost of this purchase was quite low.
- SoundSmith Phono Cartridge to replace the excellent cartridge we had, which was sold to another club member. That cartridge would pick up "hum" from our direct drive turntable, so it needed to be replaced.
- SoundSmith Phono Preamp, since the Stratta does not have a phono input.
- Inexpensive but easily transportable equipment stand.
- Inexpensive but easily transportable speaker stands.

The club subwoofers have been sold to a member, since the club 2-ways (after changes made by Sam P) no longer required them. The club still owns and will use these 2-way speakers. We now have a complete system which presenters can use as needed.

### **Ideas for Future Meetings and Presentations**

The first meeting may be to just listen to the new club equipment. It may be hard to find a presenter after we start in-person meetings.

Chuck and others have been speaking with Alan Jones (of Hi-Fi Buys), Mike (of Wolfsong) and Bill D. about virtual presentations. David Snyder suggested John Hunter of Rel Acoustics.

We could have more than one presenter at a meeting if needed.

We could have specific interest Zoom meetings for a "subset" of club members, and not necessarily on a Sunday afternoon.

We could survey the club membership to see what interests they have for future meetings so that we could get better attendance.

It would be great to have musicians present and/or perform.

We need to announce future meetings on our Facebook page in addition to member emails and our web site.

A presentation about psychoacoustics would be interesting.

We could swap speakers (kind of a blind test) to see which one is being used.

We could discuss evaluations and reviews of equipment and speakers.

A presentation on training your ears to listen for certain things between (for example) two pieces of equipment you are auditioning.

### **Various Other Discussions during the Meeting**

There are discussions and blogs about cartridge cleaning, very high-end equipment, acoustics, speaker technology, and many other topics on the web. It was suggested that John or the webmaster place links to some of these audio blogs, etc. on the club's website.

We do need to keep our current membership and try to attract new (and/or younger) members.

Maybe we could have a door prize at the end of each Zoom meeting (a \$15-\$20 item).

### **Stories from Participants**

All of the participants at the meeting were then invited to tell a story about their first Hi-Fi experiences. Many interesting stories were told! These were told during the last 45 minutes of the meeting.

**Minutes written by Thomas Horner, Secretary, Atlanta Audio Club.**