

On Sunday, January 19, 2020, the “February” monthly meeting of the Atlanta Audio Club was held at the Dunwoody North Driving Club clubhouse. This meeting featured a detailed presentation by David Snyder and associate Tom List on the topic of Music Streaming. There were over 50 folks in attendance, including 4 first-time visitors.

John Morrison opened the meeting at 2:00 pm. He announced that this was a “special” January meeting which will “count” as our February meeting. The club is working on a “Return of Michael Fremer” meeting for March, but details are not confirmed yet. The May meeting will be our annual Headphone and Personal Stereo meet. He thanked members for helping to set up and for bringing equipment for us to use during David’s presentation. These included Steve Gooding, Chuck Bruce, and Jim Petrone. They brought the club’s integrated amplifier, the club’s 2-way speakers, interconnects and speaker cables, an equipment stand and two speaker stands, and the Furutech power conditioner.

John then introduced David Snyder. He is a current member of the Atlanta Audio Club who now resides in California (he works for Facebook). His presentation was titled “Music Streaming De-Mystified”. He gave a detailed overview of digital playback and how to create a digital streaming setup. The presentation went right up to 5:00 pm. It included listening to some streaming music samples.

Because there were multiple detailed slides which will be placed on the club’s website, this secretary did not take notes on the presentation itself. There are also links to YouTube videos of the presentation on the club’s web site. David covered these topics:

- Essentials of HiFi Streaming
- Streaming History, Definitions, and Apps
- Computer Audio for Streaming
- Home Networking (for Streaming)
- Sample System Configurations
- Final Q&A

Some random thoughts I noted were:

- Your cell phone is an “all in one” streaming device
- A wired Ethernet setup is better (for audio quality) than wireless
- It is best to not have your PC or NAS storage in the same room as your audio equipment, since RFI, noise, vibration, etc. can have a detrimental effect on audio quality
- Unfortunatley, music artists are not paid very well from streaming
- FLAC is “lossless” but is compressed, WAV is not compressed
- HDMI for audio only may not be the best connection for quality, since it requires a video signal to carry the “timing” information.

The club sincerely thanks David for an excellent presentation, traveling from California to give it to us. Also, thanks again to all the others who helped set up and run this meeting including our Refreshment Director, Dan Wittmayer.

Thomas Horner  
Secretary, A-V Club of Atlanta