

On Sunday, May 4, 2014, the monthly meeting of the Audio-Video Club of Atlanta was held at the Virtual Properties Realty offices in Duluth. This meeting was more of a “mini” audio show and one-on-one presentations by individuals and dealers. It was also “mini” in that the theme of this show was portable audio. This included the latest in “portable” gear which might be used on the road, in flight, in your office, at home, or anywhere you need great sounding music. The presenters showed off the latest digital players, DACs, headphone amps, headphones, IEM’s (In Ear Monitors), USB gear, and other equipment designed to make the portable and/or digital music experience better.

The set-up started in the morning, and the show was open from 12 noon to about 5 pm. There were two rooms for folks to look through. One was the training room where dealers, industry reps, and individuals were present. The other was a separate conference room where other individuals and hobbyists showed off new and prototype headphone amplifiers and similar gear. This secretary was not at the show for the entire time, but from the attendance I saw and the sign-up sheets, there were at least 50 people who visited this show, and probably more.

At 1 pm, John Morrison (A-VCOA president) gave a short welcome and introduction. Then time was given to all the presenters to describe what they were showing and to spotlight their systems. This secretary tried to make note of all who spoke, but probably missed a few. Here is what I noted:

- Darren Censullo of Avatar Acoustics had a complete selection of iFi products for demoing and sale. He noted that this line is “value” oriented yet uses the experience and engineering of the very high-end manufacturer AMR of Great Britain.
- Audio Alternative (retail store) representatives Chris Doughty and David White showed off multiple products including several models of Grado Headphones, the new NAD Integrated Amp, Rega CD Player (or transport), Peachtree DAC, and Rega Headphone Amp. They also invited attendees to come to the store to see their new \$70,000 phono front end (obviously NOT portable!). Their retail store with multiple showrooms is located on Indian Trail Road in Lilburn, Georgia.
- Mike Lyles (who also helped set this meeting/show) described the Chinese FiiO products including the X3 and X5 digital music players and the E12 headphone amplifier.
- Horton McCurdy had just received the new Oppo BM-1 headphones and opened the box for the first time in front of the attendees. Very nice sound, they retail for about \$1000.
- Purk Yotakhong described some of the equipment in the separate conference room. This included high end headphone amplifiers such as a prototype e-Phi tubed headphone amplifier and the GS-X Mk 2 headphone amplifier with regulated power supply.
- There were other presenters, especially in the other conference room, for which I did not get their names, but the equipment they showed all sounded great (I listened to all that I could!).

Then the show resumed! All the tables were busy for the couple of hours I was there. One member commented later that this show was excellent all around, with a high level of enthusiasm. There was a rich selection of top gear, and best of all a friendly atmosphere. Several of the dealer/presenters including Audio Alternative and Avatar Acoustics offered discounts to purchasers extending into May 2014 which is most appreciated.

The club gives many thanks all those who coordinated this meeting, including Mike Lyles and Purk Yotakhong. Thanks also go to the presenters for all their work in bringing their equipment. Also, thanks to everyone who helped set up and break down for this show and to the members that brought the light refreshments.

Thomas Horner
Secretary, A-V Club of Atlanta