

On Sunday, March 26, 2023, the monthly meeting of the Atlanta Audio Club was held at the Dunwoody North Driving Club clubhouse, starting at 2 pm. This meeting featured an equipment presentation by Mike Powell, the "OCD HiFi Guy" who does YouTube videos on audio subjects and is also the owner of 11Stereo.com sales. There were over 35 attendees for this meeting.

Steve Gooding, president of the club, opened the meeting by explaining what the meeting would be about and plans for future meetings, which are not firmed up yet. The Dunwoody clubhouse has raised its rental fee for outside groups (like ours), but we are working to negotiate a good price. He announced that Tom Horner again brought a couple of boxes of classical and non-classical CDs for anyone to pick up and keep, as many as they wanted. During the meeting all the remaining CDs were taken by the people present for their collections. The classical CDs are from Dr. Phil Muse (our classical reviewer) which he has reviewed in the past. Steve then introduced our main speaker, Mike.

Mike introduced himself as a local dealer, YouTube video "blogger", and he used to be a manufacturer of amplifiers. He had several pieces of equipment and accessories he wanted to demonstrate to us. We used the club's 2-way speaker system for loudspeakers. Music was played using streaming services. The equipment Mike brought included:

- AGD class D mono-block power amplifiers. These had an unusual design element. They had "tube enclosures" on top of them which actually contained the class D amplifier circuits. These retail for \$7500 per pair and are rated at 100 watts of power (each).
- Simm Audio Lab (a Korean company) CD Transport/DAC and their 50 watt per channel integrated amp. Each piece retails for \$2500. We did not listen to these units.
- Jeff Roland Deamon integrated amp with DAC, 1600 (!) watts per channel class D, which retails for \$50K (!).
- Neo Omteck DAC 07, retails for \$2000 (we did not listen to this unit).
- Mike's custom-made power cables built using solid silver, \$3500.
- Live Bay Audio stand (is to be used under equipment).

We first listened to a couple of cuts (Steely Dan and Fanfare for the Common Man) using the club's PS Audio Stellar Strata integrated amplifier/DAC/streaming module to get a baseline feel for the music. Mike then placed the PS Audio unit on the Live Bay Audio stand, and we listened again. This stand is designed to eliminate vibration from the component sitting on it and is most effective under source components. Some folks heard a difference. Next, we listened to the Roland amplifier, which at \$50K should have sounded better, and many agreed that it did! Finally, we listened to the AGD mono-block amplifiers using the Roland only as the DAC/preamp. The sound was very good, but not quite as good as the Roland amplifier.

After this series of demonstrations, we listened to other cuts including an orchestral piece. At this point, this secretary had to leave the meeting (around 4 pm) due to another commitment, but at that time the meeting was moving toward a Q&A mode.

The club sincerely thanks Mike for an excellent presentation and demonstrations. The club also thanks Dan Wittmayer and his assistant David Mansfield for setting up some excellent snacks and drinks.

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