

On Sunday, February 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 a presentation by Dan Wittmayer on the Grateful Dead band and their famous "wall of sound" sound system that they used for their live concerts. There were over 20 attendees for this meeting, and it ended around 4:45 pm.

Steve Gooding, president of the club, opened the meeting by explaining what the meeting would be about and plans for future meetings. In March we will have Mike Powell, a local audiophile and dealer (known as the OCD HiFi Guy), whose website is 11stereo.com, give us a presentation. Mike also hosts a YouTube channel with audiophile hints. Chuck Bruce gave us a brief overview of what equipment was shown at Evolution Home Theater shop seminar the previous day (Saturday). Chuck also had gone to the Tampa audio show and mentioned gear that he had seen and heard there. Steve then introduced our main speaker, Dan.

Dan first gave all present a handout which included song lyrics for 14 Grateful Dead songs, and some information and design of the "wall of sound" including the number of speakers (and types of speakers) used and the amplifiers that drove all these speakers, 48 McIntosh 2300 amplifiers!

During Dan's presentation, Steve used his laptop to show Dan's slide show and to play Grateful Dead music during the presentation. The equipment used to play the music was the club's system including our integrated PS Audio amplifier and the club-built 2-way bookshelf speakers.

Some highlights from Dan's presentation included:

- The Grateful Dead created their name to fit on a theater marquee. It is based on the name of the people who helped plague victims.
- The Dead started as a "jug" band, more folk type music. Then they turned into an electric blues band.
- Jerry Garcia founded the band.
- The musicians included 2 guitars, 1 electric bass, various keyboard players, and two drummers.
- The Dead utilized an "active" bass player to contrast with the lead guitar.
- The "wall of sound" system became difficult to use due to the cost of moving it to each concert venue. The band actually lost money from their live concerts due to this cost.

At this meeting, 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 many were taken by the people present for their collection. The classical CDs are from the collection of Dr. Phil Muse (our classical reviewer) which he has reviewed in the past. Tom has a couple more boxes to distribute to attendees, so he will be doing so during upcoming club meetings.

The club sincerely thanks Dan Wittmayer for giving us this presentation and all the work he did to prepare it. Also, thanks again to the Refreshment Director's assistant for setting up some excellent snacks and drinks.

On January 15, 2023, the club held its annual Holiday luncheon at the Old Hickory House restaurant.

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