

The Golden Ear

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This Month's Meeting

January 18th

WCES Show Report and New Music

Brian Walsh, Rich Sacks, Denny Robertson

We'll talk about what we saw and heard at the Winter Consumer Electronics Show just held in

Las Vegas. We have a range of literature, photographs, stories, and impressions to share and invite comments and questions. We'll report on press conferences as well as industry happenings.

We also have some announcements of people tentatively scheduled to give presentations at meetings this year (thanks to Rich Sacks). We'll have many exciting guests, and suggestions are welcome.

You'll hear new recordings we picked up at the show, on both CD and LP. Feel free to bring along other recordings you wish to play.

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Meetings are held on the third Sunday of each month in the Pinehurst Room at Nordic Hills Resort in Itasca. The meeting begins at 2pm, doors open at 1. Nordic Hills

phone number is (630) 773-2750. Newcomers are always welcome to attend a meeting without obligation: a \$5 fee is refundable on joining.

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Last Month

Sedrick Harris of Melos Technologies gave an entertaining presentation. As expected, he used all Melos electronics: SE 75 monoblock amps, the new SHA Gold preamp, and CD player. A turntable was present, but due to a faulty tonearm cable, it wasn't used. Von Schweikert VR 4.5 speakers were used. There were several technical difficulties, but thanks to the persistence of the folks from Holm Audio (who graciously provided all of the equipment), the problems were solved and the system worked well. Thanks to Mike, Karl, and all the others who helped.

Sedrick, who had driven all the way from Florida, discussed features of the components as well as things going on at Melos. With regard to the new SHA Gold preamp, he mentioned older ones may be upgraded to current design for the difference in cost between the old and new versions.

Sedrick cracked some jokes and distributed free copies of The Audiophile Voice to all wanting them (thanks!). He mentioned the used LP business his wife is in, and the list of LPs available may be obtained from Rich Sacks.

Sedrick also described a few of his favorite cheap tweaks:

(1) On turntables, use all brass screws and nuts for mounting the cartridge to the headshell.

(2) His recommended record cleaning solution:

1 part Everclear 180 proof grain alcohol (from your nearby liquor store)

4 parts distilled water (would triple deionized water be better?)

10 drops Photoflo wetting agent per gallon (from a photographic shop)

Alternately, you could use 1 part vodka and 2 parts distilled water (personally, I'd be a little concerned about impurities).

(3) For subwoofers only, use 10 or 12 gauge transformer (magnet) wire for speaker cable.

Future Meetings

February 15 - To be announced at this month's meeting.

Kevin Hayes of VAC and Frank Doris of their PR firm (and of The Absolute Sound) plan to visit us in the coming months. And many more distinguished guests are coming. Get ready for an exciting 1998!

We're on the Web!

Be sure to check out our new home page on the

World Wide Web!

<http://www.xnet.com/~bpwalsh/cas.html>

It contains many things one might want to know about our group who we are, what we do, when we meet, and so on. There's also a handy form for searching audio discussion groups for messages on selected topics. We have links to a number of other web sites of interest to audiophiles, with more to be added.

Bookmark it today!

Give it a try, and send us your suggestions and comments.

Happy Listening!

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