

MEETING NOTICE - Sunday, February 17th, 2 PM - 5 PM

Arlington Heights Historical Society
Arlington Room, 110 W. Fremont
Arlington Heights, IL For directions go to:
<http://www.chicagoaudio.org/directions.htm>

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2008 Dues

To those who paid dues in January-thanks!
As we enter our 15th year (!) there has never been a dues increase and with your support we hope to keep it that way!
Great meetings, great guests, great music, your fellow audiophiles, and free refreshments for about the cost of a gallon of gas per month!

\$40 Annual Dues :

- Please bring to the meeting or
- if you are unable to attend checks can be made out to Chicago Audio Society and mailed to:

Chicago Audio Society
P.O. Box 7281
Buffalo Grove, IL 60089

Thank you!

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FEBRUARY MEETING

We are pleased to have Larry Moore from Ultra Fi (www.theultrafi.com) who will present his iRoc USB DAC and Monaco Stereo 845 Amplifier. Larry will be using his MacBook as a source (with over 2000 CDs stored!). However, DO BRING your favorite CDs as Larry can quickly copy a track or two and play it. We will likely be able to compare the CD being played on the CD drive vs hard drive. Larry indicated a preference for the hard drive, which he attributed to less power supply interaction. The iRoc uses the Philips TDA1543 in non-oversampling mode with a proprietary discrete I/V convertor. Larry will be discussing his preference for using Apple as a source and the advantages of using one with Apple's USB and the iRoc over a conventional DAC/Transport as well as how to achieve the best results. Recently, Robert Harley echoed the thoughts of many in the music industry of the possibility that within 5 years or less that music on a physical medium (CD, vinyl, etc) may largely disappear. This is a great opportunity to learn from an audiophile/engineer who has already been travelling down this path for the best possible sound.

The Monaco Stereo 845 amplifier operates in Class A at 10 watts per channel, single-ended (845 output tubes) with no feedback. For more details on both products and Ultra Fi go to www.theultrafi.com . Larry will also be using a custom autoformer preamp designed by Dave Slagle (www.intactaudio.com). Cabling will be Gregg Straley's Reality Cables (www.realitycables.com)

We are also pleased to have Jon Ver Halen of Lowther America (<http://www.lowther-america.com/>) who is bringing the Alerion Loudspeaker to match with the Monaco Stereo 845 amplifier. The Alerion uses the Lowther DX55 and despite its smaller size has surprising bass response and filled our room easily when John demoed it during the last hour of our meeting about 2 years ago.

We hope to see you all there Sunday!

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JANUARY MEETING RECAP

We started the new year with Paul Lawless, the local rep from Sjofn HiFi (www.sjofnhifi.com) who represents Scandinavian-made hifi and the Xindak line of Chinese electronics. These were well received at the recent Rocky Mountain Audio Fest and have already gotten the attention of Stereophile, specifically the Guru Audio QM-10 Loudspeakers which feature bass response to 30Hz in a cabinet about the size of a toaster oven! Paul demonstrated the speakers with both his entry level equipment from Xindak and Supra Cables and high-end equipment from Hegel and Supra Cables as follows:

Guru QM 10 (Quality Manager) Studio Monitors
<http://www.guruproaudio.com/newguru/>

<http://www.sjofnhifi.com/>

We utilized the long wall (and Paul's acoustic treatments) for the speakers to good effect. Despite our large room the Guru speakers certainly performed well beyond their small size. Guru also has a home theater setup based around the QM-10 speakers that will become available. Paul is located in the Chicago area and can be reached at paul@sjofnhifi.com or 773-410-0020. Our thanks to Paul for an interesting and enjoyable meeting.