

MEETING NOTICE - Sunday, March 16th, 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 have already paid dues for 2008-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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MARCH MEETING

Peter Sills and Ron Lapporte from Blue Smoke Entertainment Systems and Ultimate Audio Video (www.ultimateaudio-video.com) will be discussing (and demonstrating!) PC-based music servers which are the current "buzz" in the audiophile community. Daniel Barnum of Half Note Audio will also be on hand to answer any questions you may have about ASR Audio Systeme components. Here is a recent Stereophile CES impression of the Blue Smoke server: <http://blog.stereophile.com/ces2008/010908blackbox/> .

To quote our guests:

In our seminar, we will discuss what we see as the state of the music server industry and what audiophiles should consider when choosing a music server for personal use. We will introduce The Black Box Audiophile PC, which is the product of our own research and development, and represents our approach to digital audio.

As part of our demonstration, we will be comparing The Black Box with a well-respected CD Transport. We encourage you to bring your CDs so that you can hear your favorite track as you never have heard it before.

The Black Box will be demonstrated along with several other fine components, including:

ASR Emitter II Exclusive (B) stereo amplifier
MSB Power DAC
Dali Euphonia MS 4 Loudspeakers
Tara Labs cables
MBL CD Transport

We look forward to seeing you, letting you listen, and answering any questions you may have.

Don't miss this opportunity to hear your favorite CD track through both a audiophile PCserver and an MBL CD transport using the same DAC/System.
Look forward to seeing you all there.

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FEBRUARY MEETING RECAP

Jon VerHalen from Lowther America (<http://www.lowther-america.com/>) put on a Lowther/First Watt/Nelson Pass show for us when Larry Moore from Ultra Fi was unable to attend due to bad weather/driving conditions.

We had the Lowther Alerion speaker on hand along with the following components:

Pass Labs X-1 Preamp (www.passlabs.com)

Pass Labs XA30.5 Amplifier

First Watt F1 Amplifier (www.firstwatt.com)

First Watt F3 Amplifier

First Watt F4 Amplifier

Esoteric DV-50 Universal Disc Player (<http://www.teac.com/esoteric/index.html>) with Upgrade Company mods (<http://www.upgradecompany.com/>)
(thanks to Brian Richardson for providing the player!)

Reality Cables interconnect (<http://www.realitycables.com/>)

Jena Labs Speaker Wire (<http://www.jenalabs.com/>)

The First Watt amplifiers designed by Nelson Pass are a current drive design uniquely suited to drive full-range speakers like the Lowther, which do not utilize the typical crossover network. The 3 models are described well on the First Watt website along with some of Jon's listening impressions. The Pass XA30.5 amplifier is a new Nelson Pass design compatible for all

loudspeakers and VERY conservatively rated at 30/w channel. It was just reviewed in February at Six Moons- <http://6moons.com/audioreviews/passlabs/xa305.html> .

Preferences varied among listeners, but we had a high caliber of sound as evidenced by the overall quiet in the room (thank you!) and the many who stayed to hear all the amplifiers. Jon is one of only a few people (other than Nelson Pass himself) to have access to all of these amplifiers.

A big thank you to Jon for going totally above and beyond with just a few hours notice and putting on a great presentation that had everyone ...listening!

Jon Verhalen can be reached through his website (<http://www.lowther-america.com/>) for further information and listening of Lowther Loudspeakers, First Watt Amplifiers, and Pass Labs products.

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UPCOMING MEETINGS

April 20th-Pacific Valve-tube audiophile products from China (www.pacificvalve.us)

May 18th-Dale Pitcher from Intuitive Design-unique loudspeakers and cables (<http://www.intuitiveaudio.com/>)