

**MEETING NOTICE - Sunday, April 20th, 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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**APRIL MEETING**

Joe Degidio (a member too!) from Pacific Valve ( [www.pacificvalve.us](http://www.pacificvalve.us) ) will be presenting a range of their tube Chinese preamps, amps, CD sources, cables, and accessories. Pacific Valve is in the Chicago area, sells direct online, and has generated a lot of buzz for both value and sound quality, including Arthur Salvatore's website ( [www.high-endaudio.com](http://www.high-endaudio.com) ). We will listen to a wide variety of components time permitting. Details on all the equipment can be found at Pacific Valve's website. The equipment on hand will include:

Ming Da MC 3008A 40w SET Tube Mono Blocks  
Ming Da 2A3 Preamp (2A3's in a preamp!)  
Ming Da MC34AB 75w Stereo Dual Mode Tube Amp

Image Audio M12 100w Tube Mono Blocks  
Image Audio 650 50w Stereo Tube Amp

Musician Tube Preamp

Lite AH Dac Modified (non-oversampling)

Doge 6 All Tube CD Player  
MHZS CD 88F Tube CD Player  
Shanling SCD 300 SACD/CD Player

Bada Cables and Power Accessories  
Xindak Cables  
G&W Power Accessories

Audio Physic Tempo III Speakers (thanks to Gregg Straley)

This should be a great meeting. See you all this Sunday!

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**MARCH MEETING RECAP**

Peter Sills and Ron Lapporte from Blue Smoke Entertainment Systems and Ultimate Audio Video ( [www.ultimateaudio-video.com](http://www.ultimateaudio-video.com) ) discussed and demonstrated their Black Box Audiophile PC music server. Daniel Barnum of Half Note Audio, the distributor for ASR Audio Systeme components was also on hand.

Peter Sills gave a superb presentation of digital audio and the design considerations for the Black Box that was both technical and accessible. All questions were answered until there were no more! Besides Peter and Ron's excellent demo material, members had the opportunity to have their favorite CD track copied to the server and then compared to the same CD played on the MBL CD transport. We had a very wide range of material that all but guaranteed that everyone heard musical genres they both loved and er, didn't love! It would be fair to say that a majority preferred the overall sound through the Black Box server. Of note to vinyl fans, was Peter's point that an LP copied to the server would sound better than the LP listened to directly because one could turn off the amplifier during the recording process and not have the sound waves and acoustic feedback from the loudspeakers interact with the turntable/tonerarm/cartridge.

The equipment used for demo included:

ASR Emitter II Exclusive (B) stereo amplifier  
MSB Power DAC  
Dali Euphonia MS 4 Loudspeakers  
Tara Labs cables  
MBL CD Transport  
and of course...Black Box Audiophile PC

This was a great meeting where we were exposed to a most impressive product with a setup and demo that probably none of us had ever experienced. Ron Lapporte indicated members could arrange with him to hear their own components and music compared to the Black Box server. The future of digital is looking brighter indeed. As baseball season begins our thanks to Peter, Ron, and Daniel for hitting one out of the park.

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## UPCOMING MEETINGS

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