

Chicago Audio Society Newsletter, November, 2005
Meeting Notice - Sunday, November 20th, 2005 2:00PM-5:00PM

Arlington Heights Historical
Society, Arlington Room, 110 W. Fremont
Arlington Heights, IL

For directions go to:

<http://www.chicagoaudio.org/directions.htm>

Jon Verhalen from Lowther America (<http://www.lowther-america.com/>) will be demonstrating the new Basszilla and Alerion speakers with it's matching subwoofer. The following equipment will be on hand:

Source: Sony ES9000 with Level 4 Vacuum State Modifications

Pre-Amp: Pass Labs X1

Amp: First Watt (Nelson Pass) Aleph J

Wires: Jena Labs

Speakers:

Alerion and matching subwoofer

BassZilla Platinum edition

Lowther has a long history and a strong cult following among certain audiophiles. At least here in the U.S. I am not aware of Lowther ever being sold through traditional dealers. Many have heard of Lowther-now here is a great chance to hear the latest products from this company.

Another note from Jon Verhalen: The usual collection of bad audiophile recordings that show how great my system sounds. Please let people know that they are welcome to bring any music they wish to listen to, but the Sony is allergic to CDR's and will not read them. So please bring your original disc.

OCTOBER MEETING RECAP

Sean Casey and Adam Decaria from Zu (www.zucable.com) came in from Utah to demonstrate their lines of speakers and cables just 2 weeks after Rocky Mountain Audio Fest. The speakers demonstrated were the Definition 1.5, a large floorstanding speaker that incorporates 2 of the company's unique wideband drivers with a supplemental tweeter above 10kHz. On the back of the cabinet firing rearwards were 4-10" powered subwoofer drivers. As could be expected at 101db efficiency, it packed a wallop with the Atma-sphere MA-1 Mk II.3 amplifiers driving the speakers above 40Hz and the companion MP-3 preamp. The Druid speaker also rated at 101db, was also on hand utilizing a single wideband driver and supplemental tweeter.

For digital source we had two high-end products on hand. The first was the LessLoss DAC 2004 (www.lessloss.com) making what may be its U.S. debut, at least in a group setting. It consists of the DAC which is internally jumpered to provide the master clock signal, which is used in professional recording, but largely absent in consumer digital. A modified Rega Planet operates in slave mode with solid cables linking with the DAC. There was favorable feedback regarding the clarity and definition we heard from this combo.

Also on hand was the Harmonix Reimyo CDP-777 CD player (www.combak.net). This utilizes the JVC extended K2 processing which is used on the newer JVC reissue CDs. Despite being less than a week old and without break-in there was also favorable feedback on the sound of this top of the line player.

Sean and Adam brought a lot of enthusiasm to the meeting and we found ourselves challenging volume levels perhaps not heard since Bruce Edgar's visit a few years ago! Much thanks to Sean and Adam for putting on a great meeting and introducing us to Zu.

IMPORTANT NOTE

To keep the December meeting from conflicting with Holiday plans, the meeting is Sunday, December 10th. Please note.

OPEN HOUSE-RSVP (in other words-please respond before going!)

Once again Joe Lavrencik has graciously invited us to an Open House at his home on Saturday, December 3rd from NOON-5PM.

From Joe:

This year the system will be very similar to the components used in the Joule-Electra room at CES 2006 in January. An Outline of the system is below:

Front End - Wadia 861 SE with GNSC Statement modifications (\$13,000)

Preamp - Joule-Electra LA 150. With a bit of luck I will have a new version of the LA 150 that Jud is releasing in 2006. TBD. (~\$7,000)

Amplifiers - Joule-Electra VZN220 Rites of Passage with Musicwood Upgrade. These are the same amps used at CES since 2004 and the winner of the 2005 Brutus Award from Positive Feedback Online (\$28,000)

Loudspeakers - The all-new Talon FireHawk with diamond tweeters. These are the first production pair in the world and retail for \$34,000 with the upgarded diamond tweeters.

Cabling - Elrod Power Systems Statement, Statement 2, Signature 3 and Signature 2 AC cords, Statement speaker cables and Statement Interconnects (\$19,000)

Isolation and racks - Critical Mass Systems winner of the 2005 Brutus Award from Positive Feedback Online (\$6,650)

Electrical Purification - Sound Application (\$3,000)

Room Tuning - None to speak of but \$50 just in case :)

PLEASE CONTACT JOE FIRST EITHER BY EMAIL OR PHONE IF YOU PLAN TO ATTEND:

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FUTURE MEETINGS

Here is our evolving lineup of future meetings-**PLEASE spread the word:**

December - Song Audio (with Loth-X speakers) and holiday cheer.

January - Larry Musial and his redesigned 30hz Klipsch La Scalas, along with Tube Audio Design electronics

February - Eastern Electric, analog and digital, and Tannoy Churchills

March - TBA

April - Sound Lab

May - Herron Audio