

SMc Audio VRE-1C Preamp



photos by Joe Pittman

Steve McCormack demonstrates his new VRE-1C preamp which now has a remote control. It out-performs his previous VRE-1B model with manual stepped attenuator.

March 8th Meeting Recap by Joe Pittman

Steve McCormack with SMC Audio demonstrated his VRE-1 preamp back in October 2009 and many of us who were there, still remember the great sound we had that night.

This time Steve demonstrated his newest version, the VRE-1C model which includes a remote control. So why all the whoopla? Well necessity is the mother of invention they say and in

this case, everyone wanted a remote control version of his preamp, but Steve avoided it because he could not build a remote volume control that sounded better than his manual stepped attenu-

(Continued from page 1)

ator...until now. Turns out that his new remote control circuit actually surpasses his manual control.

The good news for you and for me is that Steve's entire presentation, about an hours worth, was captured on video by club member Cal Lewin (see sidebar below for links), thanks Cal! So instead of giving you an exceptionally fine write-up, just go see the videos, it's just like being there!

Meanwhile, Steve's presentation was very informative, so you may actually learn something new when watching it.

After Steve's presentation, we couldn't wait to actually hear his pre-amp in action and to also listen to some of the legendary M&K RealTime Direct-To-Disc recordings such as "FOR DUKE" and "EARL "FATHA" HINES". The sound did not disappoint. You had to be there. Together with

Steve's vinyl and Gary Koh's vinyl, it was pretty much all "UNOBTANIUM" stuff.

Thanks Steve for traveling from Vista, California to speak to us and show us your new preamp!

For more information about the preamp see <http://www.lotusgroupusa.com/SMc.htm>



EQUIPMENT

1. SMc Audio VRE-1C preamp (\$17K)
 2. Genesis 7.2f loudspeakers (club's, \$10.5K)
 3. Genesis Anniversary version of GRM Monoblock amplifiers 1400W each (\$14K stereo system)
 4. M2Tech Young DAC (blue LED \$2K)
 5. Genesis Music Server (\$2.5K)
 6. Burmester Ph100 Phono Stage, single input version (phono balanced in, \$15K)
 7. Roksan Xerxes 20+ turntable (\$6.5K modified)
 8. Roksan Artemiz arm with special PULSE internal wiring (\$5.5K) and Gary' Koh's special Magic Magic diamond cartridge with ruby cantilever (\$10K) and special Absolute Fidelity interconnect (\$2.5K)
 9. All interconnects, speaker and power cables are Absolute Fidelity Interface cables (approx. \$30K)
 10. IsoTek power filters; Nova for sources and Titan/Serious for amps (\$12K)
 11. KOSMIC equipment stand (which now belongs to the club, \$6.5K)
- Total system price \$134K.
Thanks to Steve McCormack for showing his new preamp! And also to Gary Koh with Genesis for supplying everything else. And to all the other members who helped set-up and knockdown.

Club member Cal Lewin, behind the camera, taped Steve McCormack's presentation and did an outstanding job. Thanks Cal!!





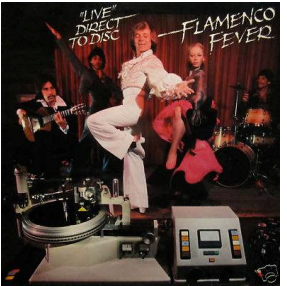

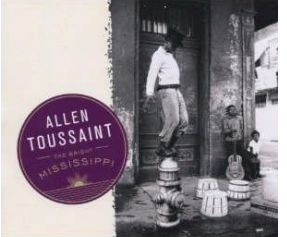



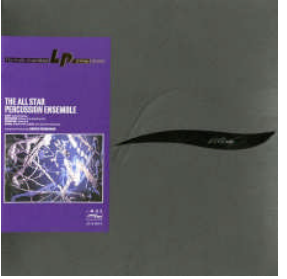



MEETING VIDEO

See the thread on the WHAT'S BEST FORUM to see the videos of the March meeting: <http://www.whatsbestforum.com/showthread.php?5870-PNwas-Presents-Steve-McCormack&p=96163&viewfull=1#post96163>

Or see the videos directly on You Tube: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7_TLCA9ifEk

March 8th Meeting—Vinyl Playlist

	<p>FOR DUKE M&K RealTime Direct-To-Disc (UNOBTANIUM)</p>		<p>Suite Espanola ORG 45rpm, 200 gram (UNOBTANIUM)</p>
	<p>EARL "FATHA" HINES M&K RealTime Direct-To-Disc (UNOBTANIUM)</p>		<p>Dusty in Memphis Analog Productions/QRP Test Pressing 45rpm (UNOBTANIUM)</p>
	<p>FLAMENCO FEVER M&K RealTime Direct-To-Disc (UNOBTANIUM)</p>		<p>Just a Little Loving By Shelby Lynne Analog Productions/QRP Preproduction Test Pressing (UNOBTANIUM)</p>
	<p>The Bright Mississippi by Allen Toussaint Nonesuch</p>		<p>Double Play! Columbia Reissue circa approx <1995 (UNOBTANIUM)</p>
	<p>Autumn in Seattle FIM Preproduction Test Pressing (UNOBTANIUM)</p>		<p>LIVE, A Fortnight in France by Patricia Barber TRI Test Pressing (UNOBTANIUM)</p>
	<p>THE ALL STAR PERCUSSION ENSEMBLE FIM First Pressing of Master Edition (UNOBTANIUM)</p>		<p>Thorens 125th Anniversary LP (UNOBTANIUM)</p>

What's Happening?

by Jerry Pomeroy

Coming up at the April 12th meeting we have a few things to take care of.

ELECTIONS

It is time to elect officers for the next year. The club elected officers are the President, Vice President and Treasurer, these are the primary club representatives.

- ◆ Presidents job is to keep the club going, overseeing the logistics of the club. and primary interface with external parties such as the church for lease.
- ◆ VP covers for the president in his absence.
- ◆ Treasure keeps tabs on our funds, checkbook and membership.

CLUB MANAGEMENT

The club is actually run by the Executive Committee (EC). The EC is comprised of all elected officers and heads of the committees. The EC meets outside of the club meetings and works out things like meeting topics and other logistical things. Elected officers are members of the committees. If you would like to help steer the club, plan meetings or just see something that could be improved there are always opportunities to get involved.

Please consider participating in the clubs management and operation by becoming a member of the EC.

Following is the status of our equipment:

SONY SCD 777 SOLD

The club sold the Sony SCD-777 SACD player (thanks Darin!) for \$1200, less \$82 for shipping, not bad since we paid \$500 for it about 10 years ago.

OPPO BDP-95 PURCHASE

Bruce Brown will pick-up the new Oppo BDP-95 before the April meeting.

KOSMIC EQUIPMENT STAND

Last month club membership approved the purchase a KOSMIC acrylic equipment stand and the unit is now paid for. The unit will be stored in the cabinet.

Over the next couple months we hope to fashion a dolly to move the new stand in and out of the cabinet. If

anyone has ideas concerning moving the stand please share them at the upcoming meeting.

SELL ROLLING STAND

The old rolling stand and storage cabinet have served us well since 2007. The custom built stand is open on all sides to access equipment.

We will be holding a silent auction for the 51"long, 31" high by 20" deep rolling stand at the April meeting. Please consider if you have use for this stand in your home, office or garage and make an offer on it. A former club president will donate his 96 Nissan truck and gas (plus his back) to help move the stand to it's new destination within the Puget Sound area provided the selling price is greater than the cost of Gas for the trip.



April 12th Meeting Announcement

deHavilland Tubes, and Tapes all Night

by Darin Forkenbrock

Join us in April to meet Kara Chaffee and see her fabulous line of deHavilland HiFi tube gear. The evening will feature her **Model 50A**, 45 watt, triode-wired KT88 output stage, mono block amplifiers. She'll pair this with her **UltraVerve 3** preamplifier, featuring 100% hand wired point-to-point circuitry, as well as the 6SN7 octal tube, and tube rectification using the 5AW4 / 5U4 rectifier.

To top it all off, Kara will also bring her **Model 222** Vacuum Tube Magnetic Tape Playback Preamplifier, which we will pair with a reel-to-reel machine and tapes from Bruce Brown's private stock at Puget Sound Studios.

deHavilland
Electric Amplifier Company

<http://www.dehavillandhifi.com>

Awards

- "Bluenote Best of 2004 Award', Enjoy the Music
- "Best Sound", CES 2004, and VSAC 2003 "Best Sound of Show" by Srajan Ebaen, 6 Moons
- "Silk Class" Category Award, HE2003 Report, by Srajan Ebaen
- "Best of Show" Finalists CES 2003, by Dick Olsher
- "Best 845-Based Amplifier", CES 2003, by Dave Glackin
- "Best Sound of Show", CES 2003, by Roger S. Gordon
- "Best Sounding Room At The Show", CES 2003, by Greg Weaver
- "The Top Five" CES 2003, by ED Morawski



June 14th Meeting Announcement

by Gary Koh



The June meeting features Mr Todd Garfinkle, Owner and Chief Recording Engineer of MA Recordings. The MA label issues provocatively creative music the vast majority of which are produced with only two (often handmade and customized) microphones fed through handmade and customized recording equipment. All MA Recordings are produced in strictly acoustic settings, often large, acoustically signifi-

cant environments such as churches, classical concert halls, and galleries. Mr Garfinkle will share some of his stories and techniques and introduce our members to his recordings - in high resolution formats.

In addition, if the club is able to find a willing musician, we will also explore the difference between listening to the musician "live", and played back through the club's system.

The Junior's Have Arrived

by Joe Pittman

I've had the new Genesis Advanced Technologies G2jr loudspeakers on order for a long time and they have finally arrived. They replace my previous Wilson Maxx 2's which I purchased before going into the audio business (I keep speakers for a long time).

I have been an audio fool for over 40 years now and have always lusted over the gigantic Infinity IRS V and later the Genesis G1's. It turns out that even if I had the money, it would not be practical to put them in a small room like mine anyway. The Genesis G1's need a room with a minimum width of around 40 feet and the scaled-down G2's need a minimum of 21 feet wide. What to do in my small 15' wide room? Well, Gary Koh responded to dealers like me who wanted G1's but didn't have the space (or money). And so the G2jr's were born.

The G2jr's eliminate the two woofer towers of the G2's and replace them with extreme ServoSub's gene spliced to the G2's mid/tweeter towers. A "junior" version of the G2's. So now I have the closest thing possible to G1's

in my small room.

The G2jr's are a direct descendant of the famous Infinity Servo-Static 1 electrostatic loudspeakers which I first heard in the early 70's. They were a game changer and one of the most influential speakers in the beginning of my audiophilia affliction. The G2jr's are literally the culmination of a 40 year legacy.

For me, the G2jr's are the realization of a dream. A quest to recreate music without compromise. And so, I plan on having a party or celebration some time in May or so, where all of you are invited to come over and listen to some music. This is not intended to be a sales job, the goal is to just listen and have fun. I have limited space so I cannot accommodate a large number of guests, so I may have multiple events. Meanwhile, if you are interested in attending, please shoot me an email to joe@kosmic.us and I'll get back to you once I get closer to a date/time.

If anyone would like to come over and listen until then you are welcome, just send me an email.

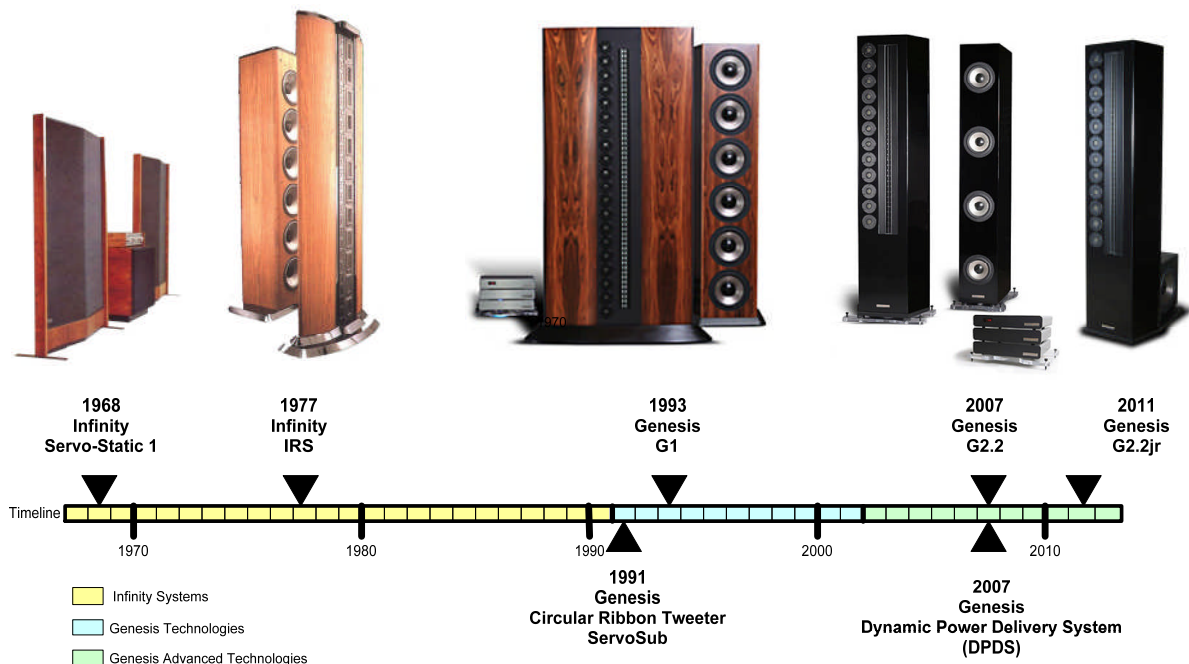
The reason I'm planning for May or so is that I want to fully break-in the Juniors before officially showing them off and I hope to receive my new Weiss MAN 301 Server/DAC by then and some other toys.

On the vinyl side I have some very exciting things in the works that I will try and share in the near future.

ABSOLUTE POWER

The G2jr's ServoSub's are quite special. They are about the size of the Genesis G928 ServoSub which also have two 12" woofers, however, unlike the G928's single amp and servo control, each of the Junior's 12" woofers are driven by it's own amplifier channel and servo control. Each loudspeaker has a built-in stereo amplifier based on the latest Anniversary monoblock amplifiers and Dynamic Power Delivery System (DPDS). When the G2jr's are driven by the new 1400 watt monoblocks, the system is truly bi-amplified with around 5,000 watts of power

The Culmination of a 40 Year Legacy



Coming Attractions

April 12 PNWAS Meeting

Kara Chaffee with deHavilland Electric Amplifier Co. from Vancouver, WA will demonstrate her 50A triode push-pull amps sourced by Bruce Brown/Puget Sound Studios master tapes.

May 10 PNWAS Meeting

DSD University by Bruce Brown

June 14 PNWAS Meeting

Mr Todd Garfinkle, Owner and Chief Recording Engineer of MA Recordings will talk about his recordings. And possibly have live versus recorded music.

July 12 PNWAS Meeting

Summer Social (tentative)

August 9 PNWAS Meeting

After several years of development, club members Gary Gesellchen and Rick Kernen are unveiling their Vanatoo powered loudspeaker. It's a giant killer.

September 9 PNWAS Meeting

Zu Audio will demonstrate their high efficiency loudspeakers and other products (tentative).

September 8 or 15 (TBD) The Puget Sound

Our world famous semiannual (every 2 years) DIY speaker building contest.

October 11 PNWAS Meeting

The winners, and other contestants from The Puget Sound DIY speaker

contest will demonstrate (show off) their speakers.



October 12-14 RMAF

Annual Rocky Mountain Audio Fest. Hi-ho hi-ho, it's off to Denver we go.

November 8 PNWAS Meeting

Andreas Koch will talk about DSD through USB and all things DSD (tentative).

December 13 PNWAS Meeting

Annual Christmas party and Best and Funniest Holiday music competition. We may also have a Home Theater demo (tentative).

NEWS by Darin Forkenbrock

Bruce Brown is writing for Stereo Mojo now. Here are links to his first article and review.

<http://www.stereomojo.com/Stereomojo%20University/SMUMASTERING.htm>

<http://www.stereomojo.com/DENSENB-350MonoPowerAmplifier.htm/DENSENB-350MonoPowerAmplifier.htm>

Classified Ads

Olive O4HD music server in like new condition with manual, remote and original packaging. Unit has the 500GB hard drive. New retail is \$2500 for 2TB unit. Unit has the black finish. Selling for \$1000 (no WSST). Contact Joe Pittman phone: 206-878-3833 or email: joe@kosmic.us



Disclaimer: The Pacific Northwest Audio Society does not endorse nor is liable for any advertisement in any way. Everyone is cautioned to proceed at their own risk.

Visitors Welcome!

Meetings are held on the second Thursday of every month at 7:30pm at 4545 Island Crest Way, Mercer Island, WA 98040.

PNWAS Mission Statement

- ◆ To bring people with a common interest in music reproduced at its best, for their mutual edification and pleasure.
- ◆ To facilitate the exchange and dissemination of accurate data concerning audio equipment and musical recordings.
- ◆ To promote, sponsor, and cultivate the highest quality reproduction of music in the home.
- ◆ To encourage maintenance of high standards in the performance, recording and transmission of music.

PNWAS Objectives

1. Provide a forum for meeting other audio-philes and exchanging information on musical recordings and audio equipment.
2. Demonstrate and compare equipment and recordings.
3. Give members opportunities to become familiar with the techniques of audio manufacturing, testing, repair, recording, broadcasting, etc.
4. Explore related avenues as the member-

ship deems appropriate.

Club Website

www.audiosociety.org

E-mail

info@audiosociety.org

US Mail

Pacific Northwest Audio Society, PO Box 435, Mercer Island, WA 98040

Annual Dues

\$60 due each January. New members pay a prorated \$5 per month for remainder of year.

Elected Officers

President: John Stone

John.W.Stone4@boeing.com

Vice-President: Darin Forkenbrock

forkenbrock@gmail.com

Secretary/Treasurer: Bruce Brown

pugetsoundstudios@yahoo.com

Committee Chairs

Editor: Joe Pittman

joe@kosmic.us

Equipment: Jerry Pomeroy

enhancedsystems@earthlink.net

Music: Vacant– Volunteers?

Refreshment: Vacant– Volunteers?

Editorial

Editorial submissions are welcome.

Content must be audio-related or of general interest to the club in plain text or Word document format without automation (macros and scripts). We reserve the right to edit for style, content, and length.

Editorial Deadline: two weeks before meeting date.

Publishing any editorial material is contingent upon the approval of the Executive Committee.

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Bringing Audio Enthusiasts Together Since 1978

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