

# ARIZONA Audio Video Club

December 2020

## Club Officers

**President:** Paul Righello

**Secretary/Treasurer:** Joe Goswami

**Newsletter Editor:** Roy Cook

**SC Members:** Jeff Kalina, Bob Olivere, Ben Taylor, Darcy Righello, Tom Harvell, David Hjortland

**Photographer/Videographer:** Ben Taylor, Thomas Parker-Swenson



President's Message



Last Month's Meeting



Member Articles



Sundry Stuff



Dealer Area



Humor

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YouTube Channel: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DT\\_nKeWE0S4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DT_nKeWE0S4) (not quite loaded yet)

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

**Paul Righello**

Hello AZAV Club,

Happy Holidays! I hope everyone is having a safe and sound holiday season. We had our final meeting of 2020 on December 2nd with Morris Emerick of Shinjitsu Audio (<https://www.shinjitsuaudio.com/>) demoing a pair of his unique speakers. They are a folded horn design marrying a Mark Audio Alpair mid-woofer to an ESS ATM tweeter. These compact speakers packed quite a punch with surprising bass performance in our large room. The ATM tweeter provided great air and sparkle in the top end and the speakers produced a convincing holographic image. I was quite impressed by what Morris has accomplished in a condensed package. For more information, check out the Shinjitsu Audio webpage.

## Survey Results

Thank you to all who participated in our 2020 club survey. We received a ton of great feedback and will be putting these findings to use in planning out 2021 events. For those interested in the results, here is a link to the aggregated data: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/results/SM-TDM6ZD567/>.

Some key takeaways:

Members join to meet others and learn new things.

There is a preference for in person and virtual meetings (62%) but a sizeable cohort (31%) wants in person meetings.

A majority of the respondents attend Zoom meetings (66%).

Folks want more equipment demos, industry speakers, and DIY events.

Nearly 80% of respondents would recommend the club to their friends.

82% found the club very valuable or extremely valuable.

## January 2021 Meeting

We are kicking off 2021 with a zoom interview of **Merrill Wettasinghe** of Merrill Audio Advanced Technology Labs ([www.MerrillAudio.net](http://www.MerrillAudio.net)) makers of beautifully sculpted pre and power amplifiers. This should be a real treat, don't miss it!

Zoom info for January below:

Topic: Merrill Audio Advanced Technology Labs

Time: Jan 20, 2021 07:00 PM Arizona

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81186773175?pwd=NF16SHc5MUFFSHVoMStPUmdjYVp3UT09>

Meeting ID: 811 8677 3175

Passcode: 779194

One tap mobile

+12532158782,,81186773175#,,,,,0#,,779194# US (Tacoma)

+13462487799,,81186773175#,,,,,0#,,779194# US (Houston)

Best,

**Paul**

# MEMBER ARTICLES

**John Dakis**

## Sugar Cube SC-1:

It's been a year after ordering the Sweet Vinyl Sugar Cube SC-1 pops, clicks, and scratches remover, ("Life" just keeps on happening!), but I finally hooked it up this week. If Sir Michael (Fremer) says it's good, then it must be (?). The reason I bit the bullet to add yet another piece of equipment into my already crowded listening room is that my "To Be Cleaned" pile of LP's had gotten to the point of overflowing into the hallway, so I figured why not listen to some of this good stuff before the ultrasonics do their thing to see if this Sugar Cube thing really works. Well, it does, sort of.

As far as the technical why's and how's of the Sweet Vinyl processors are concerned, don't look for them in this article. I'm a landscape architect, and anything not green or prickly is totally out of my area of comprehension. It either works or doesn't and it either turns me on or doesn't. Go to the Sweet Vinyl website if those things interest you.

One of my favorite LP's is Ella Fitzgerald and Joe Pass 's "Take Love Easy." It's also on the TAS list. I picked my copy up for \$3.75 from a now defunct record store sometime in the 80's, and it looked like a semi-truck and trailer had run it over twice. But I had just bought every piece that dbx then made plus a Burwen 5000, so I knew I would soon be hearing Ella's dulcet tones over my speakers. By the time I had pressed every piece of "click, pop, and noise" reducing button on my outboard processors, all I heard was a whole bunch of thuds, rush noise, and very little of Ella and none of Joe's guitar. Back to minimalism and only pristine records; or so I thought.

Unfortunately, LP's are not manufactured in Clean Rooms. Many years ago I purchased a record from a boutique label owned by the classic pianist James Boyk, and it had a piece of the inner sleeve actually imbedded in the grooves! Even today, I have two MoFi UHQR'S and a new One-Step of Bill Evans which need to go through "Dr." Kirmuss's Majic Mystery Machine and his "Record Restoration" process.

But I digress—back to the Sugar Cube. So, after hooking everything up, I put Ella and Joe on the 'table, and sure enough the clicks, pops, and scratches had not healed over time and were as evident as ever. But when I pushed the "Remove" button on the Sugar Cube, virtually all of the noise had gone. Yes, when the stylus hit a very deep scratch, you could hear it slightly in the background, but the fidelity of the original recording was mostly still there. I say mostly, because the transients seemed to have a little less "punch" and the quality of the playback was not as transparent as going straight through the system without any processing, although Ella's voice was not adversely affected at all. I could attribute most of the loss of transparency to the 30-year old interconnects and stock power supply and power cord which were used to hook everything up. I will be upgrading these in the future. The Sweet Vinyl SC-1 is now a permanent part of my system, it works.

# LAST MONTH'S MEETING RECAP

[Paul Righello](#)

[Chris Dorsey On Guitar](#)

Details of this event can be perused in the President's Message.

# DEALER'S AREA

## Dealers Corner

Jeff Kalina

As always we want to recognize and thank all the local retailers who support our club so graciously

### DEALERS:

Acoustic Designs Group -- <https://www.adgroupaz.com/>

Dedicated Audio -- <https://www.dedicatedaudio.com/>

USA Tube Audio -- <https://www.usatubeaudio.com/>

LMC Entertainment -- <https://www.lmche.com/>

Woolson Audio -- <https://www.woolsonaudio.com/>

Arizona HiFi -- <http://tubeaudio.com/>

Audio Video Excellence -- <https://www.audiovideoexcellence.com/index.html>

Big Ear Stereo -- <https://bigearstereo.com/>

*(There are some good items on sale right now from Big Ear Stereo – Ed.)*

### VINYL:

Record High in Phoenix -- <https://www.facebook.com/Record-High-in-Phoenix-225931417539924/>

In Groove Records -- <https://www.theingroove.com/>

### REPAIR WORK:

James Koch

[james@highendrepair.com](mailto:james@highendrepair.com)

Audio Doctor

<http://www.audiodoctor.biz/>

### New Entries

Jeff's Professional Audio Repair

Also Car Stereo work

4221 North 19th Ave

Phoenix, AZ 85015

602-274-0794

[jparepair@yahoo.com](mailto:jparepair@yahoo.com)

M-F 9:00 AM to 5:30 PM

Refoaming Speaker Surround Service:

Michael Mitchell

480-749-7003

[mmiller43228@yahoo.com](mailto:mmiller43228@yahoo.com)



# SUNDRY STUFF

## **Bob Passaro's First System**

My first system (mono), 1954 (66 years ago): All components built into a gutted Philco "Magic Mirror" TV cabinet.

Bogen DB-10 10 W Integrated Amp

GE A-1-400 12" Golden Coax Speaker in GE's recommended Bass Reflex Enclosure

VM (Voice-of-Music) Changer/Turntable re-fitted w.GE VR-II Magnetic Cartridge

Proudly demonstrating my "Glenn Miller Limited Edition" album

High Fidelity decals provided by Capitol Records' "FDS" (Full Dimensional Sound - I worked part-time in a record store).

Have a hoot!

*Bob Passaro*



## **John Harvell**

Thought I'd pass the love around a bit... songs that I think are either good recordings or I like the character of the music or both.

1. Hayley Westenra – Pretty Little Horses
2. Emily West – Nights in White Satin
3. Emmy Rossum – Sentimental Journey
4. Hillary Gardner – Autumn in New York
5. Eva Cassidy – Stormy Monday
6. Holly Cole – Charade
7. James Taylor – Fire and Rain
8. Melody Gardot – Worrisome Heart, Barry I'm a Fool, Who will Comfort Me, Your Heart is as Black as Night
9. Melissa Stylianou – Nice Work if You Can Get It
10. Natalie Cole – The Very Thought of You
11. Natalia King – Don't Explain

12. Nina Simone – Do I Move You, My Man's Gone Now
13. Renee Olstead – Summertime, Is You Is or Is You Ain't My Baby
14. Tracy Chapman – All That You Have Is Your Soul
15. Tori Amos – Silent All These Years
16. Tommy Emmanuel – Moon River [Instrumental]
17. Taj Mahal – Senor Blues
18. Pink Floyd – On The Turning Away
19. Queen Latifah – I Put a Spell On You
20. Noah Wall – St. Louis Blues
21. Morgan James – Little Girl Blue
22. Maria Muldaur – Squeeze Me
23. Los Lobos – Kiko and the Lavender Moon
24. Kristin Chenoweth – Fathers and Daughters
25. Diane Birch – Fire Escape
26. Catherine Russell – The Very Thought of You
27. Cassandra Wilson – Red Guitar
28. Dominique Fitz-Aime – Nameless – Birds

I'm always looking for good quality recordings with good presentation. My music interests are not too focused. I would be happy to hear of music that you would recommend.

They may not ring your bell... but I find these enjoyable.

Best wishes and happy listening

John

# HUMOR

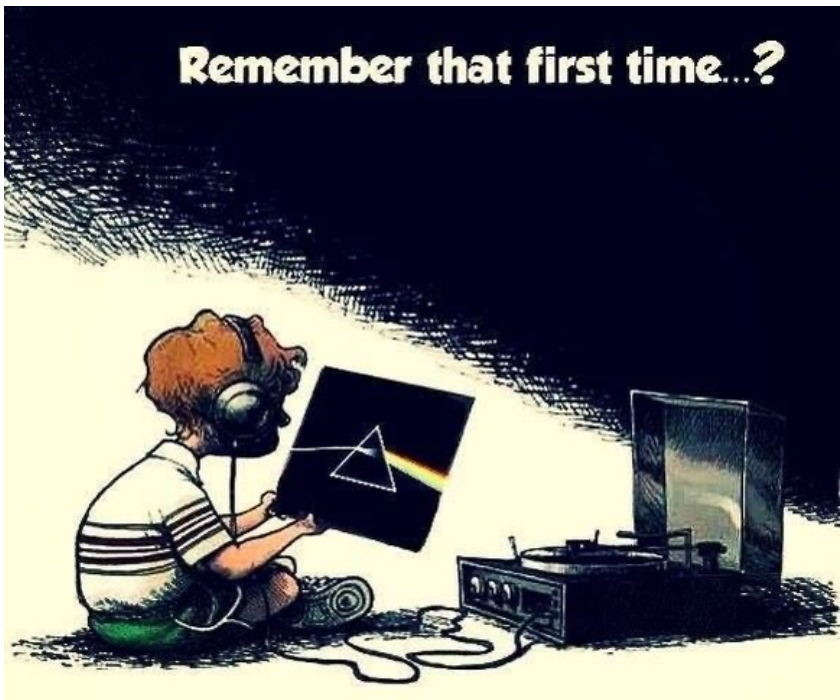
More silly stuff, and some trivia knowledge.



"... Yes, sweetheart, I realize that \$4,600 is a lot of money for a new pair of speakers. But look, we're both working, and with what we make plus what we'll get if we each sell a pint of blood every couple of weeks for a year or so, I know we can swing it!"



# VINYLCUB





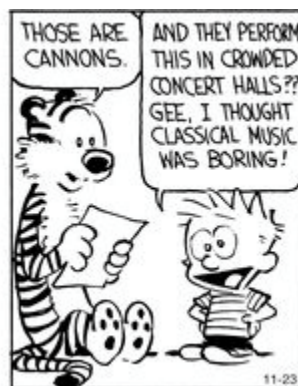
"I'm guessing that it's some kind of dog-food dispenser."



I KINDA LIKE IT.  
INTERESTING PERCUSSION  
SECTION.



WATERSH



11-23





And another thing, your stereo system *never* sounded as though we were in the presence of a live orchestra—I lied!"



"We all listen to music on vinyl these days, Dad.  
It's a format you're probably too old to be familiar with."



# If you remember Bob Hope, you'll enjoy this.

(I did not write or assemble this article – Ed.)

## This is a tribute to a man who did make a difference.

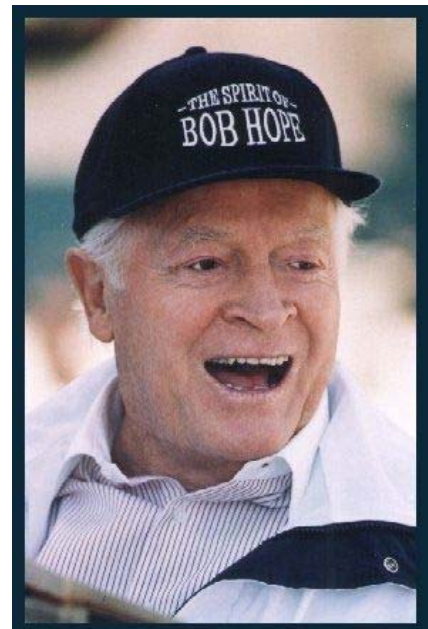
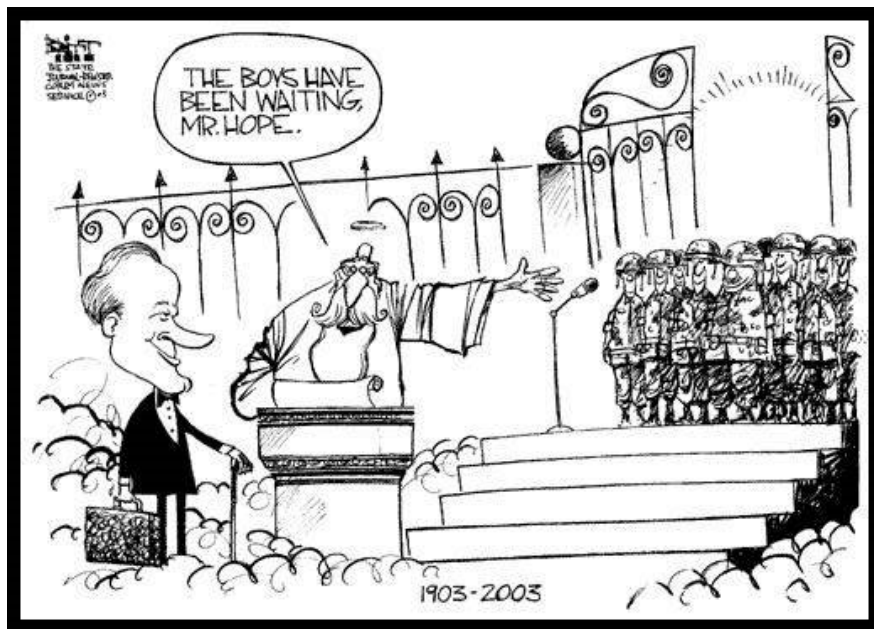
I had forgotten that he lived to be 100, also didn't realize it has been over 14 years since he died.

I always enjoyed him, his movies and his show. He touched a lot of lives during his life. I thought you might enjoy a bit of reminiscing.

On his death bed they asked him where he wanted to be buried. His answer was. "Surprise me."

For those of you too young to remember Bob Hope, ask your Grandparents. Thanks for the memories, Bob.

## BOB HOPE IN HEAVEN...



I HOPE THIS WILL PUT A SMILE ON YOUR FACE AND IN YOUR HEART.

### ON TURNING 70

'I still chase women, but only downhill.'

### ON TURNING 80

'That's the time of your life when even your birthday suit needs pressing.'

### ON TURNING 90

'You know you're getting old when the candles cost more than the cake.'

## **ON TURNING 100**

**'I don't feel old. In fact, I don't feel anything until noon. Then it's time for my nap.'**

## **ON GIVING UP HIS EARLY CAREER, BOXING**

**'I ruined my hands in the ring. The referee kept stepping on them.'**

## **ON NEVER WINNING AN OSCAR**

**'Welcome to the Academy Awards, or as it's called at my home, 'Passover.'**

## **ON GOLF**

**'Golf is my profession. Show business is just to pay the green fees.'**

## **ON PRESIDENTS**

**'I have performed for 12 presidents but entertained only six.'**

## **ON WHY HE CHOSE SHOWBIZ FOR HIS CAREER**

**'When I was born, the doctor said to my mother, Congratulations, you have an eight pound ham.'**

## **ON RECEIVING THE CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL**

**'I feel very humble, but I think I have the strength of character to fight it.'**

## **ON HIS FAMILY'S EARLY POVERTY**

**'Four of us slept in the one bed. When it got cold, mother threw on another brother.'**

## **ON HIS SIX BROTHERS**

**'That's how I learned to dance. Waiting for the bathroom.'**

## **ON HIS EARLY FAILURES**

**'I would not have had anything to eat if it wasn't for the stuff the audience threw at me.'**

## **ON GOING TO HEAVEN**

**'I've done benefits for ALL religions.**

**I'd hate to blow the hereafter on a technicality.'**





***Give me a sense of humor Lord, give me the grace to see a joke, to get some humor out of life, and pass it on to other folk.***