

# Arizona Audio Video Club

Newsletter for January, 2022

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## Steering Committee Nominees

President	<i>open</i>
Vice President	<i>open</i>
Secretary	David Snyder
Treasurer	Deb Snyder
Newsletter Editor	David Snyder
Programs Coordinator	<i>open</i>
Activity Groups Coordinator	Walter Nash
Members-At-Large	Roy Cook, John Harvell, Dave Hjortland, Jeff Kalina, Paul Righello, Ben Taylor

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## Letter from the (acting) Secretary

My wife, Deb, and I joined the club late last year. Although we currently live in San Jose, California, we're in the process of building a house in Surprise. As you can see from this photo (taken last week), it's not far along...just a slab, so we will not be local to the area until mid-2022, at the earliest. However, long ago I discovered that the best way to make a new town feel like home is to connect with people who share a common interest as early as possible. For us, this usually means getting involved with an audio club and the local church.



Like anything else, the more you put into endeavors like these, the more you'll get out of them. This is why we're so honored to have been accepted by last year's steering committee as acting Treasurer and Secretary. The steering committee is a fairly tight-knit group that works hard behind-the-scenes to serve our membership, plan events, manage expenses, and plan for the future. If you've been a member of this club for a while but have never considered getting more involved, I encourage you to think about it. It can be a significant time commitment, but the friendships you'll make along the way are priceless.

As is the club's custom, members in attendance at the first event of the year will vote to select steering committee members for 2022. On the first page of this newsletter, you probably noticed that there are several positions for which we have no nominees. Responsibilities (defined in our [bylaws](#)) associated with the positions we do not fill during the January 26th meeting will fall to remaining committee members. If you've been thinking about getting more involved but don't feel confident to commit to one of these positions for a whole year, this is a great opportunity. Dip a toe in by joining the steering committee as a Member-At-Large and help out where you can. Building a legacy of appreciation for fine audio and video playback is rewarding work. Join us!

To nominate yourself or another member to the steering committee, please send an email to [AZAVClub@gmail.com](mailto:AZAVClub@gmail.com) by 5:00 pm MST on Friday, January 21st.

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## Club Finances Summary for 2021

Below, please find a summary of our income and expenses for fiscal year 2021. If you have questions, please send them to [AZAVClub@gmail.com](mailto:AZAVClub@gmail.com).

Description	Beginning Balance	Assets	Liabilities	Ending Balance
Beginning Balance	\$3,170.45			
Member Dues		\$1,934.35		
Interest		\$5.21		
Live Music Fees			\$125.00	
Event Incidentals			\$266.93	
Office Supplies			\$7.96	
Shipping and Postage			\$162.23	
Teleconferencing			\$149.90	
Venue Fees			\$400.00	
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$3,170.45</b>	<b>\$1,939.56</b>	<b>\$1,112.02</b>	<b>\$3,997.99</b>

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## 2022 Membership Renewals

Our [bylaws](#) stipulate that a member's dues “shall be for a period not to exceed one year and will terminate on December 31 of that year.” Following this to the letter, our participating member count drops to zero when the ball drops on New Year’s Eve. Yikes!

Each year, we rebuild the club’s participating membership from scratch in just a few weeks. This is necessary to have a reasonable number of attendees at our January event who are eligible to vote for steering committee members. Our bylaws do not specify a minimum number for quorum, but, ideally, most members from the previous year will choose to renew their membership before the first meeting.

To the thirty of you who have already renewed your membership for 2022, a heartfelt thanks!

If you were a participating member last year and have not paid your dues recently, I’m sad to report that you may no longer be a member at this moment. Fortunately, that’s easy to remedy. Simply click [here](#) to send your dues electronically via PayPal or mail a check for \$35 to our acting Treasurer, Deb Snyder (address on the [JOIN](#) page of our website).

If you’re the fence about renewing, here’s a tentative events calendar for 2022:

January:	Redbook vs DSD vs AAC
February:	Poetry on Plastic speaker Michael Johnson
March:	Open House at Acoustic Design Group Saturday
April:	Wine and Audio – does it influence the sound
May:	Digital File Formats – what is the difference if any?
June:	Realities of the recording process
July:	Member Music Night
August:	Cables – do they make a difference
September:	Subwoofers
October:	Progressive Listening Night
November/December:	Swap Meet

This calendar is subject to change as we have many more great ideas coming in from members, so please stay tuned. I hope we can count on you to participate in 2022!

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## Dave's Record Reviews

Doc & Merle Watson – [Never the Same Way Once](#)  
(CD & LP, Owsley Stanley Foundation, 2017)

Presumably everyone who knows anything about American music knows something about Doc Watson – and if they don't, they should. Blind from the age of two, he was self-taught on the guitar and became one of the great masters of folk/ bluegrass/Americana. He won 7 Grammys and a Grammy Lifetime Achievement Award – quite an accomplishment for any musician, much less a blind one.



Owsley Stanley was a famous (infamous?) San Francisco counter-culture figure and audio engineer, responsible for many recordings of the Grateful Dead. As a concert sound engineer he would often record live concerts of different bands, which he called his “sonic journal.” This practice resulted in an amazing musical trove of some 1300+ live concerts, including those of many of the greatest groups of the 1960's and 70's. The Owsley Stanley Foundation was formed after his death in 2011, to bring at least some of these recordings to the public.

The albums under consideration here were the Foundation's first product, recorded by Owsley over 5 performances of Doc & Merle Watson in 1974. They were produced for audiophiles, which is evident from the sound quality of both the CD set and the LPs. And as you might guess, the 7 CD box set and the 2 LPs are *not* the same. The CDs are a fairly complete record of the concerts. As well as pretty much all the songs you get the whole experience – side remarks and jokes, count-ins, discussions of which songs to play in what key, audience reactions, all of it. Doc and his son Merle seem to materialize in the room, and you are there...

The CDs are great, but in sonic terms (did you see this coming?) the LPs are better – all analog production, half-speed mastering, 45 RPM speed, on 180 gram vinyl. The catch is that this is NOT the complete concerts, but a collection of excerpted songs. Some of the best songs, mind you, but not nearly the whole experience. But all are excellent – Doc and Merle are in great form, with both their pickin' and Doc's vocals.

Not familiar with Doc's music and not sure you'd really want to play 7 CDs or pop for the \$37 or so for the 2 LPs? Try one or two of his other albums first – there are 40+ to choose from, and there is good stuff on all of them I am familiar with... which is more than half of them.

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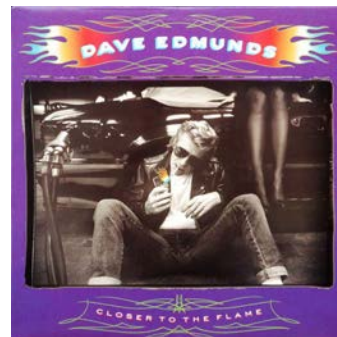
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The Owsley Foundation has since produced a number of other albums from the same source, including ones by Johnny Cash, the Allman Brothers, and more. Google the Foundation if you are interested.

## Dave Edmunds – [Closer to the Flame](#)

(CD & LP, Capitol, 1990)

If there were any justice this Welsh guitar giant and record producer would be world-famous and have sold out stadiums. It is incomprehensible to me that he has not – yet, anyway – been inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. He was an amazing guitar player, and his picture could/should be in dictionaries alongside the entry for rockabilly, the branch of rock'n'roll he is perhaps most associated with. His credits as a band member, solo artist, side man, and producer would run to a much longer word-count than I would consider for this space. I will only mention that he was integral to the groups Love Sculpture and Rockpile, a bandmate of the great Nick Lowe, and producer of albums by a number of other artists you may well be familiar with. But check him out on Wikipedia.



Depending on how you view his output/catalog, **Closer to the Flame** was perhaps Edmunds' 19th album, and his only one for Capitol Records. It met with mixed reviews by critics, and though I love almost all of his stuff this is my favorite. Here you will find real rock'n'roll – up-tempo and guitar-driven songs. Put on “Every Time I See Her” or “Stay with Me Tonight” and you are defied to not tap your feet, snap your fingers, or even dance to the music. (Air-guitar anyone?) For a change of pace it includes the almost-ethereal number “Stockholm,” which while still rock-driven, is a more thoughtful, crafted piece that I have occasionally used as a demo cut (on LP).

OK, so this isn't music for folks who don't relate to electric guitars and driving tempos no matter how well done. Fine – be that way then. For those of us who grew up (or – ahem – supposedly grew up...) with that sound, Edmunds' albums stand as worthy achievements in the history of the rock genre.

Footnote for classical buffs: On a couple of albums Edmunds recorded his version of Khachaturian's **Sabre Dance** that should impress you.

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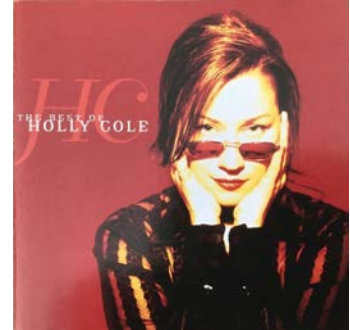
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## Holly Cole – [The Best of Holly Cole](#)

(CD only, Metro Blue, 2000)

This will be safer territory than Edmunds for most audiophiles. Holly Cole has been a fixture of the Canadian jazz scene since the late 1980's, when she moved from Halifax, Nova Scotia, to Toronto. She formed the Holly Cole Trio, the name used on her first four albums, and began releasing albums that have generally met with critical and popular acclaim. While she is fairly well-known in the US, she is a virtual icon in Canada.



Very much the *artist* and her own woman, Cole performs and records music as the spirit moves her. Her material is generally regarded as jazz, but she has occasionally veered into pop interpretations that leave jazz purists shaking their heads. Her smoky contralto voice lends itself well to her chosen material, often reflecting her wry, sassy, independent attitude.

All of her albums have gems on them, though they are diverse enough that few listeners will like every cut on any of them. That said, they are all very well recorded, and a few of them have even been reissued in vinyl format – notably her 4th album, **Don't Smoke in Bed**, released as two LPs at 45 RPM by Analogue Productions.

Though there are jazz-type numbers in this **Best of** collection, it favors more her pop sensibilities. It includes songs by Tom Waits, Lyle Lovett, Lennon-McCartney, Elvis Costello and others, many of which were hits for her at least in Canada. And they are indeed memorable, well-done songs; “God Will,” “Cry (If You Want To),” “Make It Go Away” are among the more outstanding ones. A cut called “Train Song” will test your system’s bass accuracy.

While an LP of this album would be a godsend, the folks who engineered this CD knew what they were doing – the fidelity is excellent. Highly recommended.

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## CLASSICS CORNER

### Tennessee Ernie Ford Sings Civil War Songs of the North and Sings Civil War Songs of the South

(LPs, Capitol, 1961. CD, Bear Family, 2004)

Yes, yes, I know – I'm going out on a limb here. Tennessee Ernie Ford?!? Really? Well, yes. But before you accuse me of attempting some sort of hoax – or worse, losing all sense of musical judgment – hear (read) me out.



This is a pair of albums of very authentic Civil War-period songs. Though updated in their arrangements, the lyrics have apparently not been tampered with and are very much of their time. In other words, some of them are assuredly not politically correct in these days of hyper-sensitivity.



The pair of albums were released in 1961 in commemoration of the War's Centennial. Ford is in great voice, and that rich baritone was undeniably great. And you're not sacrificing audiophile sensibilities here, folks! Production is superb and the backing musicians are excellent.

I originally found them as a Bear Family Records release on a single CD, which includes a nice booklet, and thought they had done a terrific job with remastering. When I came across (used copies of) the LP's, however, I discovered that Bear Family wasn't to credit for the wonderful production — it was there on the originals courtesy of Capitol, the same high quality treatment given Sinatra and some of their other top artists. I would call the sound near audiophile quality. Friends I have played this for have also picked up the CD or LPs.

Bring your open mind to listen, suspend those preconceptions of judgment, and check out some of the songs on these two albums. If you can do that (I can't quite guarantee it but) I expect that you may very well be impressed. You will be entertained at the very least.

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## Roy's Movie Review

**Matrix Resurrection** – Keanu Reeves, Carrie-Anne Moss, Neil Patrick Harris. Keanu-Neo is again, buried in the Matrix, and he's (oh-no) taking the "blue" pill. Neo is having "dreams", and he sees Trinity (Carrie-Anne Moss) at the coffee shop occasionally, which somehow upsets him. Well folks that's about 65% of the plot. The rest of the movie is so convoluted Alexander the Great (of Gordian Knot fame) couldn't unravel it. The first Matrix movies were entertaining: a novel concept, really cool CG, and good guys vs. bad guys in exotic shoot-em-ups. This movie has quite a few shootouts, but I didn't care.



Every great movie of this genre has to have a great bad guy, and Mr. Smith is surprisingly absent; the villain may be the worst failing of the movie. Stay home, watch some old episodes of Gunsmoke; you'll be happy you did. *Not Recommended.*

–Roy–

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## January Event Announcement

When an album is released on SACD, DVD-Audio disc, or similar hi-res format, the tacset assumption is that the sound quality is worth the extra cost. But, is there really a difference? If so, is the difference great enough to hear? During this fun event, filled with fellowship and great music, we'll find out together.

Annual Club business is also on the agenda. Candidates for positions on our Steering Committee will say a few words about why they want to serve the club this year. We need participating members in good standing to cast votes according to our bylaws. At the moment, no candidates are running opposed, but this formality is an important part of the ongoing operation of our club. I hope all who are eligible to vote will participate. In-person members who have paid their 2022 dues will receive a paper ballot. Those who attend via Zoom will receive a Google Forms link so that they can vote electronically.

We will meet at Faith Lutheran Church, [801 E Camelback Rd, Phoenix, AZ 85014](#) at **7:00 pm on Wednesday, January 26th**. If you are unable to attend in person, please use the Zoom link below:

Join Zoom Meeting - please plan to join a few minutes early to get setup

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83304248239?pwd=OTRlWGhxb2R4QjgwUmxCblg2aTZXdz09>

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## Dealer Area

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

### Equipment Dealers:

[Acoustic Designs Group](#)

[Dedicated Audio](#)

[LMC Entertainment](#)

[Woolson Audio](#)

[Arizona HiFi](#)

[USA Tube Audio](#)

[Audio Video Excellence](#)

[Big Ear Stereo](#)

### Vinyl:

[Record High in Phoenix](#)

[In-Groove Records](#)

### Repairs:

#### **James Koch**

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

#### **Audio Doctor**

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

#### **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

#### **Michael Mitchell** - Refoaming Speaker Surround Service

480-749-7003 | [mmiller43228@yahoo.com](mailto:mmiller43228@yahoo.com)

#### **Richard Jensen** - Turntable Set-up and record cleaning

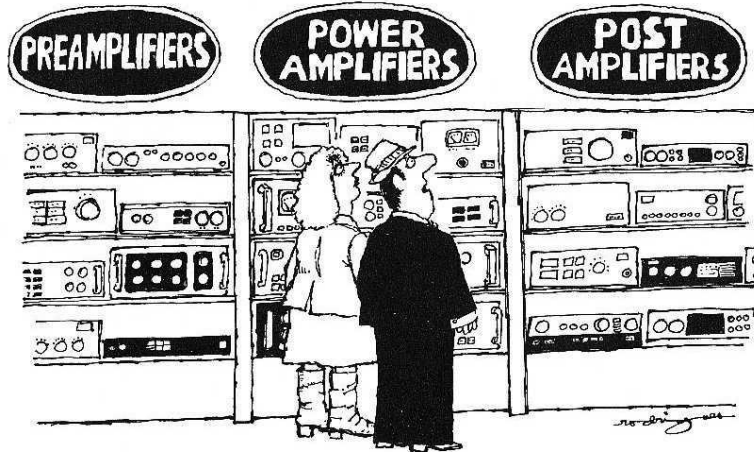
ANALOG resource

602 717 2399 | [worksbau@gmail.com](mailto:worksbau@gmail.com)

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## Humor



"Now what?"

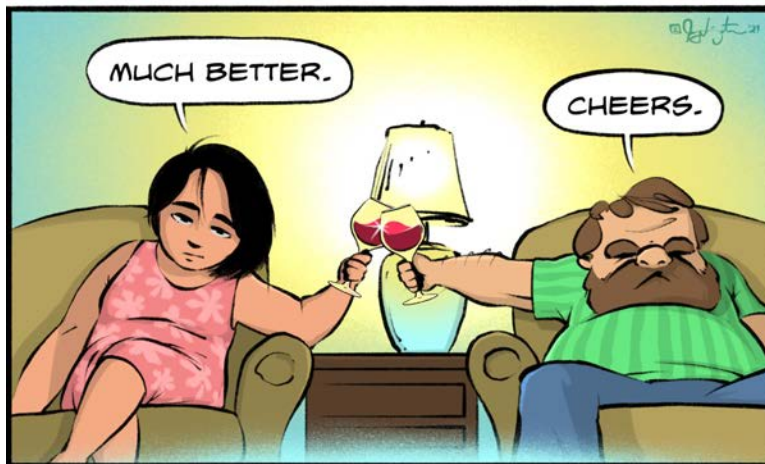
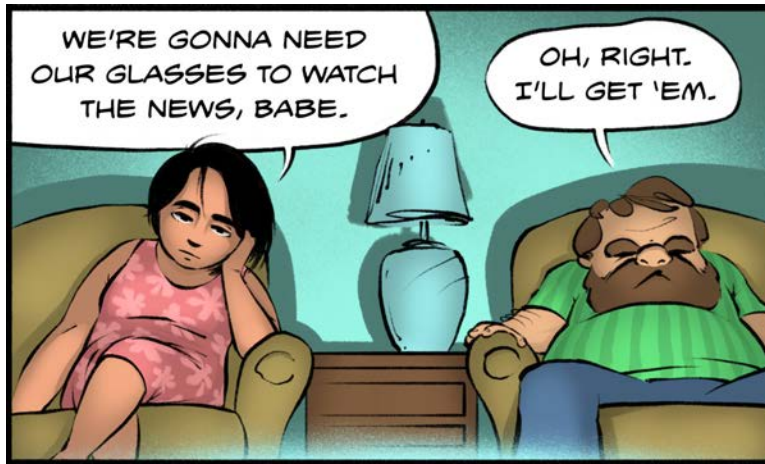


"Here's an excellent cartridge for \$389, sir. It's also available without the Brazilian rosewood box, the French crystal inner case, the set of three precision screwdrivers for mounting, the pure gold hinges and clasp, and the silk slip case for \$18.95."

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WRITTEN BY PAYCHECKOLOGY