



July 2023

Club Officers

President: John Harvell

Vice President: Joe Goswami

Secretary/Treasurer: Joe Goswami

Newsletter Editor: Roy Cook

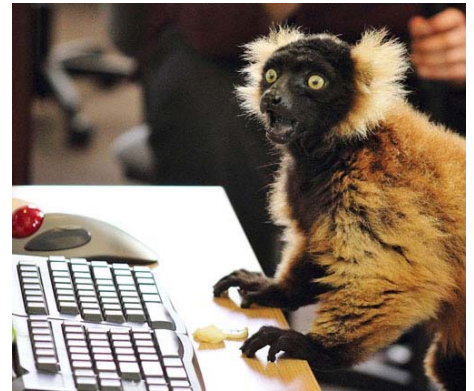
SC Members: Ben Taylor, David Prysock, Paul Johnson, David Hjortland, Steve Bruzonsky



President's Message



Last Month's Meeting



Member Articles



Sundry Stuff



Dealer Area



Humor

Email Info@AZAVClub.org

Website <https://azavclub.com/>

Please join the Club for 2023, if you have delayed this rather painless endeavor. You can find PayPal links on our website, or send money to Joe Goswami (address forthcoming on website), or bring check, cash, or money order to the meeting. See the President's M3ssage for upcoming highlights, and a special raffle.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

John Harvell

[Presidents Message for July 2023](#)

We will have a bonus raffle at this event; Dave Hjortland has donated a quality Martin Logan Crescendo wired/wireless speaker (\$899.95 when discontinued). It is in like-new shape with the box and instructions... the only catch is that he couldn't get the remote to work for it. This speaker will be given away to one of the club attendees as a door prize at this event.

Please come out and join other club members on 26 July @ Faith Lutheran Church, 801 East Camelback Road Phoenix, Arizona 85014, from 7-9pm for an honest and revealing look at the inner workings of the recording and mastering process which captures musical presentations and translates them into what we hear through our audio video systems. Ben Taylor (our own recording expert) and Clarke Rigsby (of Tempest Recording) have graciously agreed to describe the various elements of the recording process and demonstrate the mechanics of recording a musician's expert musical renditions and translating them into a realistic presentation that communicates the message and emotion of the artist.

We often discuss passionately the soundstage, timber, and feeling of a musical recording and try to compare what we hear to live music that we've heard, come listen to Ben and Clarke educate us about the mechanics of capturing live music and translating it into a media that we can enjoy at a moment of our choosing. Clarke will also bring and demonstrate some of the better music recordings he's recorded/produced to illustrate and demonstrate good recording processes.

Also, the 2023 club program is shaping up with the following events being firmed up:

1. August Meeting: Thursday 24 Aug from 7-9pm, generously hosted @ and by LMC in Tempe. LMC have committed to demonstrating much of their high end gear and to answer questions about their store and some of the products and services that they offer. Please join us for what will be a very pleasant meeting with good music, good people, and tasty refreshments.
2. September Meeting: Join us for a rousing meeting at the Faith Lutheran Church from 7-9pm hosted by Andrew Jones where he will discuss the design objectives he incorporated into the recent design and construction of his new Mofi Sourcepoint 10 concentric driver loudspeaker (Specific date being firmed up). Not only will Andrew discuss the finer points of his design, but he will demonstrate its capabilities for us with music selections of his choosing.
3. October Meeting: Join us for an exciting meeting hosted by Ed Goff (an AAVC club member). He has been diligently working on his passion to develop an active three-way speaker system which uses independent amplification and signal processing for each speaker driver. He will discuss his design choices, the selection of his speaker layout, the construction of the resulting speaker system, and then the tuning of each driver in the speaker system through measurements and adjustment of the signal processing engines independently controlling each independent speaker driver. Ed has graciously offered to host this meeting at his home (potentially over a couple of October meeting dates and times). As a result, this event will require members RSVP so we can manage the size of each meeting for optimum member interaction and listening enjoyment.

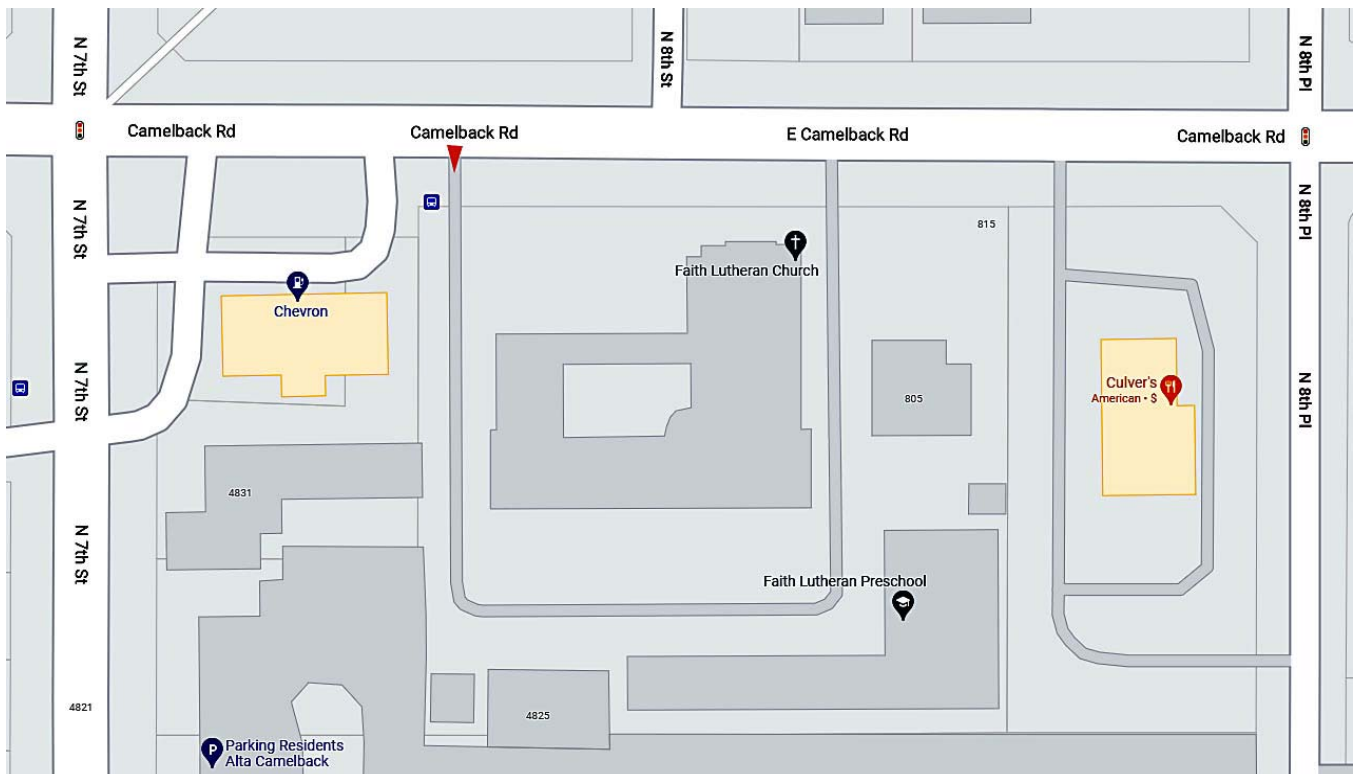
Recap of the 31 May 2023 club event: We had 18 club members come out and join us to listen to a pair of Serenity Acoustics Super 7 Speakers, owned by Club Member Jeffrey Behr (Thank you very much). These are a planar magnetic midrange and high frequency speaker design integrated with a somewhat novel bass module with both front and rear firing open baffle drivers. Here are a couple of pictures illustrating

this design. Note: They were designed so the user had direct access to the crossover module rather than incorporating it into the speaker's internal baffles.



Serenity Acoustics Super 7 Speaker: Planar Magnetic mid/high frequency driver integrated with dual forward and rearward facing open-baffle bass drivers.

Thanks for your continued support,
John Harvell
President, AAVC



LAST MONTH'S MEETING RECAP

The club will on some years take off one month in the summer

MEMBER ARTICLES

Dave's Record Reviews

It's depressing. If you Google "musicians died in 2023" the list is already long. Among those who have "gone on" are some of my favorites; David Crosby, Jeff Beck, Gordon Lightfoot, Tina Turner, and (as mentioned in my last column) Harry Belafonte. And there are a number of others. I note that *all* of the albums included in that last column were by deceased artists. Time to recalibrate a bit, and write about some artists who – while not exactly youthful – are still with us...

T. Bone Burnett – **Trap Door**

(Warner Bros., EP only, 1982)



T Bone Burnett is a truly multi-talented man, accomplished and successful as a songwriter, guitarist, and producer. A listing of his credits/accomplishments and awards would be quite beyond the scope – and allowable space – of this review. There is some good material on all of his albums and I was starting to write a review of one of his later ones. Then I decided that nah, while his later ones have their moments they tend to veer more into a dense and artsy sound that isn't quite my thing. No, I'd rather wax enthusiastic about this earlier EP he put out, which is my favorite of his solo work. Here he really came into his own with both highly polished musicianship and his intelligent, somewhat snide lyrics.

The album opens with "Hold on Tight," an upbeat but easy rocker packed with observations on life and relationships and the recommendation of the title. "Diamonds Are a Girl's Best Friend" is absolutely a treat! He plays it almost straight but it's sly too, with a spoken lyric and a sung and clapped chorus – the only non-Burnett written song on the album. "I Wish You Could Have Seen Her Dance" is a message song with the message – albeit a lightweight one – of exactly what its title says. "A Ridiculous Man" pokes fun at a stuffed-shirt type that Burnett delights in skewering and does so effectively. "Poetry" is a slower song, a declaration of love but not a maudlin one. And the finale is "Trap Door," the title song, warning the listener to watch out for the trap doors of life.

Musicianship is first-rate and the production is pretty good. I checked Amazon for this EP and was startled to see it listed for \$192. I thought for just a moment that my copy might be rare and valuable, but no – that was an outlandish asking price for a new copy. Used copies are readily available on Discogs for \$5-\$15. Highly recommended.

Ann-Margret – **Born to be Wild**

(Cleopatra Records, LP & CD, 2023)



As an unabashed fan of Ann-Margret, I much looked forward to this release, her first new album in about 22 years. She assembled a pretty-much all-star supporting cast, and the songs are carefully chosen rock & pop classics that do not overly stress her vocal range. No one will mistake her vocals at age 81 for those of the younger gal that made male hearts beat faster in the latter half of the previous century. That said, she carries *most* of these songs with a throaty caress that might just make you forget that earlier version of her presentation.

Highlights of this album – such as they are – include treatments of "The Great Pretender," "Splish Splash," and Steve Cropper nicely supporting the version Ann belts out of "Son of a Preacher Man." My favorite cut is "Bye

Bye Love,” but that’s probably only because Pete Townshend contributes some extremely tasty guitar work for it.

As much as I’d love to effusively praise this record, I can’t quit bring myself to recommend it. It just doesn’t stand on its own merits sufficiently well for me to do that. Other reviews of this album have been quite favorable, possibly because they might be by writers who are not as familiar with and/or nostalgic for the sexy vocals of Ann’s younger self. Oh, by the way, the photo on the front cover and the more cheesecake ones inside the fold-out and on the inner liner are NOT of Ann at age 81, as other, current photos of her will verify, but hey – who cares?

(My favorite album of hers remains **Beauty and the Beard**, the 1964 album she did with Al Hirt. I reviewed it in the Classics Corner section of my column #7 in February of last year. Now THAT is an album *well* worth seeking out!)

John Hiatt – **Stolen Moments**

(A&M, LP & CD, 1990)



John Hiatt is one of those characters who seem to hang around the periphery of popular music, acknowledged as a good musician and a *great* songwriter but seldom achieving the acclaim that should be his due. That said, he has a near-cult following, *numerous* songwriting awards, and a catalog of 23+ albums, so he’s doing something right. He’s hard to classify, having incorporated a wide variety of musical styles over the course of his albums – including folk, blues, rock, country, and what-have-you.

Some critics tend to cite **Bring the Family**, Hiatt’s 8th album and his first to chart on Billboard, as his finest. Nope. **Stolen Moments** is his 10th of those 23+ albums (there are *notably* more if you count compilations and foreign albums) and is unquestionably his finest work. [Hey, I’m writing this review – I get to be opinionated!] The fact that it was produced by Glyn Johns, arguably the finest rock producer ever, doubtless contributes to that impression. And it was mastered by the late Doug Sax, also brings a strong factor in its favor. There’s really not a bad song on this album, all of them written by Hiatt. They vary between up-tempo rockers and mid-tempo ballads, but all are thoughtful, well-crafted and meaningful. This album isn’t for everyone’s taste. It probably won’t impress a listener not prepared for Hiatt’s brand of blues-tinged pop/rock and somewhat raspy vocals, but it *will* reward one willing to settle back and give it a chance.

You know with the opening chords of the first song, “Real Fine Love,” that this is a serious album by a serious artist. A blues-rock ode to the “real” love of a woman that the singer, a hard-bitten, down on his luck kinda guy, is unworthy of. “Child of the Wild Blue Yonder” is more of a rocker, a paean to a rather wild, free-spirited girl. The title cut is a fine song about reflecting on the past but living in the present. “Through Your Hands” is a simply gorgeous number about meeting up with an angel – a real one. The album closer is “One Kiss,” reflecting on how much one kiss can mean. As I said, there are no *bad* songs on this album, and that is a statement that I venture to make about very few records indeed!

The songs are well-written, the musicianship is excellent, the engineering and production are first-rate – what’s not to like? As (almost) always, the LP version of this is more highly recommended than the digital, though the CD ain’t too bad.

CLASSICS CORNER

Al Stewart – **Past, Present and Future**

(CBS/Janus, LP CD, 1974)



As I pondered what "classic" record I could write about – from a still-living artist – my thoughts turned to this 1974 album. It was Al Stewart's fifth, coming out 2½ years before he would become known the world over with the release of his seventh album, the mega-hit **Year of the Cat**. A Scottish-born artist, Stewart came up through the ranks of British folk musicians in the '60s & '70s, gradually developing his style from a more purely folk sound into one that would meld folk with pop and rock sensibilities and wonderfully lyrical songs that told stories based on historical situations. The zenith of that approach became this album.

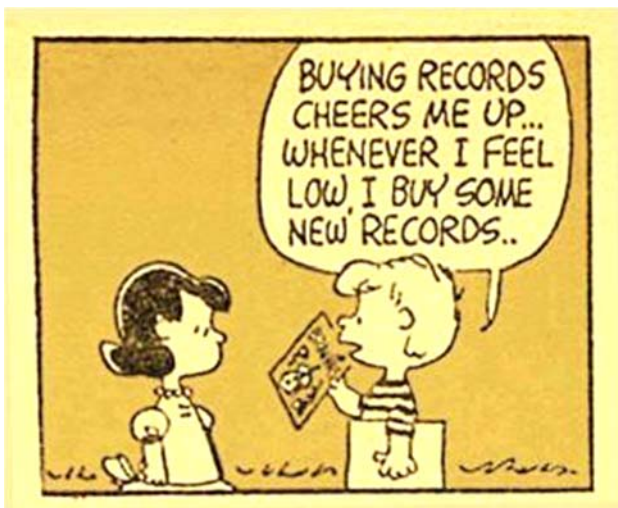
It is a "concept" album, most of the songs covering different decades of the previous century. "Old Admirals" leads off the album, an old seaman reminiscing about his life on the ocean and the Great War. "Warren Harding" is an upbeat song about the US's 29th president and how lonely he was in the White House. A song of special note is "Roads to Moscow," recounting the German invasion of Russia during WWII through the eyes of a Russian soldier – who Stewart indicated was meant to be Nobel prize winning author Alexander Solzhenitsyn. Different verses of the song relate different phases of the campaign.

My favorite cut is "Post World War Two Blues," an up-tempo, autobiographical song about growing up in the United Kingdom in the '50s and '60s. The album closes with "Nostradamus," a fascinating, mystical song recounting many of the predictions of the famous French oracle:

*"Man, man, your time is sand, your ways are leaves upon the sea
I am the eyes of Nostradamus, all your ways are known to me."*

As well as the songs being well-written and engrossing, they are well performed by Stewart with an excellent supporting line-up of musicians. The album was originally released by CBS in Britain with a staid English cover in 1973. The American release with the comic book character of Doctor Strange stepping through a mystical portal came out in 1974 on the Janus label. It has since been re-released on CDs and additional LPs on different labels, most recently as a 180-gram LP pressing on the Friday Music Label in – I believe – 2015.

I'm afraid that the sonics and production of this album do not render it quite an audiophile treasure, however they are not bad at all. And I CAN say that musically this is a truly wonderful album for anyone who takes the time to listen into it.



DEALER'S AREA

Dealers Corner

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/>

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

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

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

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

Woolson Audio -- <https://www.woolsonaudio.com/> (may be closed, more later)

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

Mythic Home Theater -- <https://mythicsls.com/>

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

Audio Doctor

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

602-741-0730

Jeff's Professional Audio Repair, Also Car Stereo work

602-274-0794

jparepair@yahoo.com

Refoaming Speaker Surround Service:

Michael Mitchell

480-749-7003

mmiller43228@yahoo.com

Turntable Set-up and record cleaning:

Richard Jensen

ANALOG resource

602 717 2399 | worksbau@gmail.com

SUNDRY STUFF

Hey Paul

Roy Cook

Paul McGowan takes a question from pretty much anybody who sends him one and produces a video wherein he provides an answer with his own homey, congenial demeanor. Paul covers a wide variety of topics and produces common-sense, somewhat non-technical answers out to YouTube. I get an email pretty much every weekday that tells me what Paul is opining on that day. To his credit, Paul doesn't excessively promote his own products, but of course does somewhat. He also promotes good products from other companies. Since Paul has been at audio production for a while, he provides a great sense of history.

Paul made a couple of trips to AZ to talk to the club; he is a very affable and down-to-earth speaker. His meetings were always a pleasure to attend. Thinking back to the products Paul promoted to us that PS Audio used to make, their product line has improved considerably and I think you can see a consistent improvement in their offerings. PS Audio now has an excellent, well-rounded product line that covers most of the equipment a person could want. It's interesting that PS Audio brings in experts in their particular fields to help them design a specific product; I can't think of another company that utilizes this paradigm as much as they do.

I went to a club members house that has a pair of the new PS Audio FR20 speakers, and I thought they sounded great, I could not hear any true weaknesses in the room they were energizing. The WAF conundrum kept them from being a contender for my house as their appearance was way to modern for my listening room, which is also my family room. I personally own a couple PS Audio products (DAC & Phono Pre) and can heartily recommend them.

HUMOR

More silly stuff, and Deep Wisdom

Beware of a new Amazon scam. My husband ordered me some expensive jewelry, but motorcycle parts came instead. Thankfully they fit his bike...

A Scotsman and his wife walked past a swanky new restaurant.

"Did you smell that food?" she asked. "It's smells absolutely incredible!"

Being a 'kind-hearted Scotsman', he thought, "What the hell..., I'll treat her!"

So, they walked past it again!

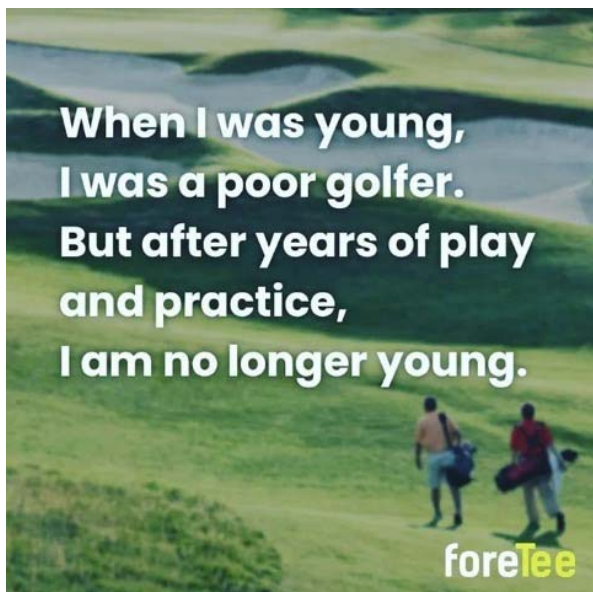


90% of people are idiots. I'm glad I'm in the other 20%.



Sadly, the days of people using proper English are went.

**I sat in my Haircutters chair and said "Make me look sexy."
She started drinking.....**



**MY GRANDAD WAS RESPONSIBLE
FOR 25 DOWNED GERMAN
PLANES IN WW2**



**STILL TO THIS DAY HE IS KNOWN
AS THE WORST MECHANIC THE
LUFTWAFFE EVER HAD**



Always make sure
SOMEONE in the
relationship has
good credit. That's
why it's called
SIGNIFICANT other.
Sign/if/I/can't.

Follow me for more
marriage tips

Two women in a bus fighting
bitterly over the last available
seat.

The conductor had already
tried unsuccessfully to
intervene when the bus driver
shouted to the conductor, "Let
the ugly one take the seat"

Both women stood for the rest
of the journey

Argument done!

5 by 5 rule

If it's not gonna matter
in 5 years, don't spend
more than 5 minutes
being upset by it.

