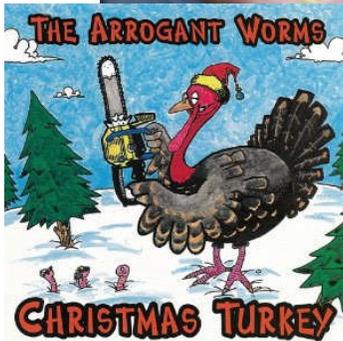


Baby It's Cold Outside!



Terry Olson was the winner of the Funniest Christmas music competition with his entry *Christmas Turkey* by The Arrogant Worms



photos by Joe Pittman

Bill Endleman was the winner of the Best Sounding Christmas music competition with his entry *Baby It's Cold Outside* by Ray Charles & Betty Carter.

December 9th Meeting Recap by Jerry Pomeroy

As usual the December meeting is a time to let your audiophile guard down and just laugh at some of the music that shows up. After welcoming new members we started down the road of the acoustics in the basement and what we are doing. The Officers met concerned about the major acoustic changes that resulted from removing the carpet. We have been meeting in the basement for at least 7 years. Two schools of thought rose from the

ashes; find a better place to meet or fix the acoustics. Gary Koh volunteered to head the "improve the acoustics" team and all individuals were asked to seek opportunities for a better meeting place: Life Is Like A Box of Chocolates.

Gary, Jerry and Joe all got to the church early and started setting up utilizing the fiberglass acoustic panels that normally only show up for the bi-annual speaker contest. All the area rugs the church plans on getting were on the

floor along with the four free standing panels. Prior to this meeting some members thought the acoustics were so bad that you wouldn't be able to distinguish audio performance changes based on different equipment.

During set up we utilized a few system embellishments such as better interconnects and Gary's Modified Weiss Minerva DAC. Before starting the competition we played a couple tracks from the clubs Sony SCD777ES

(Continued from page 1)

with its internal DAC, then the Minerva. Although there wasn't vote or comment cards most people seemed to notice the wider soundstage and more detail of the Minerva. I thought this demonstrated the acoustics of the room could be worked making it discernable to tell equipment differences.

We started off listening to the funny entries:
Reggae Christmas Eve in Transylvania from Wacky Christmas- Dave
Ho Ho Ho up on the Roof Top from Stan and Doug just go Nuts by Stan Boreson- Jerry
Turkey Christmas Blues by the Arro-

gant Worms- Terry
Merry Christmas from the Family from You Sleigh Me by Jill Sobule- Jay
The Winner once again was Terry with an Arrogant Worms track, *Turkey Christmas*.

After selling a few more raffle tickets we started listening to "Best Sounding Christmas Tracks" brought by the members:

Baby It's Cold Outside by Ann Margret & Al Hirt—Jay
Stille Nacht, From FIM Cantate Domino CD- Terry
Baby It's Cold Outside by Ray Charles & Betty Carter- Bill
White Christmas from Joy to the World

CD by Pink Martini- Willie
We Three Kings from Joy to the World
CD by Pink Martini- Joe
Green Sleeves from Winter classics by Georgia Kelly – Don
Deck the Halls from Joy to the World: Thomas Kinkadee by Royal Philharmonic Orchestra- Dave
When we voted the results were a 4 way tie but we continued to vote till Bill cleaned up with the Ray Charles *Baby it's Cold Outside*.

President's Message by John Stone

Considering the ridiculous amount of holiday music which is played by almost every radio station, shopping mall, and holiday party, it always surprises me that properly chosen holiday music, that is, the music chosen by my fellow club members for the annual holiday meeting, continues to entertain, amuse, and educate. We often forget that in many cases, great artists made great music, music which is then squashed and mangled by a car radio or shopping mall PA system. Member selections for our December meeting provided some exceptional listening. Our holiday fund raiser raffle not only helps pay the rent in 2011, but also provides entertaining musical gifts to many of the participants. Thanks to all who purchased tickets and contributed raffle prizes.

A special word of thanks to Jerry Pomeroy, Gary Koh, Joe Pittman and perhaps others who showed up early for the December meeting and worked to largely solve the recent acoustic problems the club has been experiencing. As most of you know, the church basement where the club meets was recently "renovated" by removing the existing wall-to-wall carpet and replacing the carpet first with bare concrete floors, and more recently, with two large area rugs. Using free-standing acoustic panels on long-term loan from Jerry, this group molded the panels and speakers

into a harmonious arrangement which resulted in much-improved sound.

The club will continue to experiment with speaker and panel placement in hopes of achieving further improvement, and allow time to assess the long-term viability of our current venue. If any of you are interested in how we set up equipment in the church prior to meetings, come early to the meeting (around 6pm) and watch, or better yet, participate in the setup.

We currently have a short-term rental arrangement with the church, which will be converted to an annual lease depending on the outcome of this room assessment. Suggestions on alternative meeting locations are still being solicited from all club members.

As we enter a new year, I encourage all club members to get more involved with club activities. This is YOUR club, and your input is needed to keep the meetings entertaining, educational, and fun. The club's Executive Committee, which is comprised of the three elected officers and designated committee members, meets between regular meetings to plan future events. We are looking for meeting topics, equipment you'd like to hear, your latest favorite music, and any other input you have. If any of you would like to organize your own event, speak to, or email any Executive Committee member to get an invite to the next Exec

Committee meeting. If you have not already done so, please visit the club's website www.audiosociety.org, for contact information and other club news. Any suggestions about how to improve the club's website are also welcome.

Also, virtually anything audio-related and legal is material that can be included in the monthly newsletter. You don't have to be a great writer, and you don't have to write War and Peace either. A paragraph or two on your favorite (or least favorite) audio topic will do. Submit all contributions to any of the email addresses listed on the website.

One last, but important item regarding annual club membership dues. If you haven't already done so, please mail your check for \$60 today, or bring a check to the meeting on Thursday night. Your membership dues pay the rent, and enables equipment purchases to enhance the listening experience.

John Stone

Annual Financial Info

Willy Chang, our Treasure said we made >\$200 on our Christmas Raffle. And currently our Club's Bank Balance is a little over \$6500.

January Meeting Notice

by Terry Olson

At the January meeting we will be featuring some of the entries from last Summer's speaker contest. For those who may not have attended "The Puget Sound! DIY Speaker Contest" before, I believe that you'll be surprised at the quality of sound that our contestants achieve. If you haven't ever built your own speakers, this is a chance to listen to and ask questions about how the speakers were designed. There is a certain amount of science involved, as well as art, in the conceptualization and design of any speaker. The success, or failure, of a speaker is quite often in the compromises made, or the balancing of the attributes of the components involved in the design.

We will be featuring the winners of each class, including "Best of Show" (Gary Gesellchen's 3-way) as well as Dave Rosgaard's (very close 2nd place) 3-way entry. One of the highlight's of the meeting will be the speakers entered by our "newest speaker builder," and long time Club President, Jerry Pomeroy. Jerry may be the newest speaker builder, but we will also be introduc-

ing our youngest contestant, sixteen year old Will Jennings, whose speakers not only sound very nice, but are visually stunning as well.

The contest itself is conducted "blind" where the Judges listen to the same musical selections, played at the same volume, on the same gear. The only variable is the Device Under Test (DUT) which, in this case, are the speakers. A acoustically transparent curtain hides the entry from the view of the Judges, in order that only the sound of the speaker is being evaluated.

We're very lucky to live in the Pacific Northwest, where we not only have quite a few excellent speaker designers, but World Class Judges as well. In the past, we've been privileged to have such distinguished audiophiles as Winston Ma, Mike Lavigne, Bruce Brown and Renan Jefferies serving on our listening panel.



Speakers to be judged "blind" behind the curtain.

Winners from the contest

3-Way Under \$300 and also Best of Show:

Gary Gesellchen; Dayton 8" woofer, Vifa 4" mid, Seas 3/4" dome tweeter, Crossover: 2nd order L-R @ 250&3500 Hz, Cost of components&crossover \$240.00

Runner up for both awards (by just a few points):

Dave Rosgaard; Silver Flute W17RC38-08 6.5 inch Wool Cone woofer, Seas 10 F-M 4" treated paper cone midrange, Peerless 811435 1" textile dome tweeter, Crossover: Series 3rd Order electrical @ 900&3500 Hz, Cost of components&crossover \$195.00

2-Way Under \$200 and third overall in points

Terry Olson; 1.5" Radio Shack close-out full range shielded drivers (12 per speaker), Adire Audio AV8 8" shielded woofer, Series crossover 2nd order highpass, first order low-pass @ 450 Hz, Cost of components and crossover \$81.00

1-Way Under \$75.00

Peter Karsborn; Tangband 3", Bottom Firing Pipe, Cost of Drivers \$28.00

1-Way Over \$75.00

Howard Grim; Fostex 206E Fullrange plus Passive Radiator, Side or Bottom Firing, Back loaded horn, Cost of components \$260.00

Kit over \$375 and top points for kits

Jerry Pomeroy; Kit: Exodus Audio 6.1, Usher 1" dome tweeter, Extremis 6.5" midwoofer, Crossover: L-R 4th order Frequency (?), Cost \$400.00

Kit under \$175

Carl Ravenscroft; Kit design: 2-way, unknown tapered pipe design, Driver Coaxial Tannoy 1667, Crossover: Stock Tannoy, frequency unknown, Cost: \$125.00

Glasses Free 3D

By the time you read this Toshiba will have debuted in Japan their glasses free 3D TV in both 12 & 20" displays with rumor of early spring product release in the USA. This technology will be showcased at CES in Jan 2011. Don't hold your breath for a glasses free 3D image on a new 60" display anytime soon. Manufacturers that have made big investment into glasses 3D say this is not practical for large displays and don't see the technology ready for prime time for another 5-10 years. This could be a quick decade if displays continue to increase in quality over the next ten years as they have over the last.

HD Video DRM

ULTRAVIOLET is a digital video content storage and distribution system backed by Warner Bros, Lionsgate, Paramount, Sony, Universal and Fox. One major distribution company that is not on board is Disney; remember they were against VHS, DVD until after they figured there was money to be made and hopped in the water. There has been talk about this format for a couple years but it really got a kick-start this year at CES when these major studios got on board.

You will be able to buy content and the right to distribute it to your own personal devices.

The software will be marked with an Ultraviolet logo and will allow you to load it on up to 12 compatible devices such as iPads/phone and Netflix servers. The system has already been in testing, obviously the studios were impressed and feel by giving flexibility it will cut down on piracy.

Composite Video

COMPOSITE VIDEO: 12/31/10 has been termed the "sunset of analog HD video", It may actually be the twilight

but if you use composite video the future is getting darker. In the big scheme of things composite is dying because of Digital Rights Management (DRM) issues. Here come the acronyms. The Advanced Access Content System Licensing Administrator (AACSLA) is a cross industry group that is busy guarding against piracy by eliminating the analog hole that allows consumers to easily copy high definition video from Blu-ray players. As of Jan 1st 2011 manufacturers are no longer to introduce new Blu-ray Disc Players (BDP) that have component output that will put out anything above Standard Definition (SD) in NTSC this is 480i.

Approaching the next acronym the clouds darken and head for the horizon fast. BD distributors that own the content of the disc (distribution companies like Sony/ Fox & WB) are now able to further limit the output of your BD player via the Image Constraint Token (ICT) in the BD. The ICT determines what resolution will be output on what type outputs on your player. This may seem a bit confusing but just remember that the AACSLA controls the hardware configuration abilities and the ICT is software based limiting the hardware output of your BDP.

When HD video (ATSC standard) first came out displays and signals were analog. I remember going down to the local Toshiba dealer in the winter of 1999 and drawling over the first wide screen rear projection HD TVS, The line was called ColorStream and the sets were expensive: 56" DW56X91 and the 65" DW65X91 carried MSRPs just under \$7K and \$9K correspondingly. There were a lot of compatibility issues (hand shake) with High Definition Multi Media Interface (HDMI) when it first became available in late 2003. Even with top notch equipment these problems persisted until HDMI

1.3 was released in 2006 so a lot of people including installers used component video for years to just maintain a consistent picture.

By limiting the resolution from a BDP does anyone think this will substantially cut down piracy? AACSLA was cracked years ago about all this will do is cut out an optional HD connection to a small monitor in the back of a home theater. As of yet no one has called me with composite video image problems related to these new limitations but I still have clients that use their component video daily, I'm waiting.

iPad Remote Control by Joe Pittman

I hate being yet another Apple iPad advertisement, but I can't help myself. The touch screen iPad is the coolest remote control device I have encountered. It's the future of remote control I'm sure. And when you are not using it as a remote control, you can surf the internet, read your email or do a gazillion other useless activities.

Lately, I have been using the iPad to remotely control a couple of my servers via WiFi. J River Media center is controlled by a web page based control called WebRemote. And a free Apple App to control my new Olive O4HD server (see photo). Later I'll get around to getting it to work with Foobar. The screens and the database management capabilities are a little primitive at the moment (designed for the small iPhone screens) but it is only a matter of time that these applications will equal or surpass offerings from Crestron and Soolos at a much lower price. The price currently ranges from

\$500-\$700, and more for 3G. Later this year a 4G version should be available.



photos by Joe Pittman

Coming Attractions



**January 6-9, 2011
CES 2011**

The largest consumer electronics show for industry and Press.
See <http://www.cesweb.org/>



**January 13th
PNWAS Meeting**

The winners and entrants of The Puget Sound speaker building contest are invited to demonstrate their speakers.

**February 10th
PNWAS Meeting**
TBD

**March 10th
PNWAS Meeting**

We are going to play some vinyl so bring your records. We'll also clean your records for free!

**April 14th
PNWAS Meeting**

Guest speaker Jules Bloomenthal will talk about Telarc's early digital recordings with the Soundstream recorder.

Classified Ads

Meridian 568 Processor/DAC
(24bit/96Khz) - \$1200 obo - and my
Meridian 598 DVD Audio Player
(\$1400 obo). Contact Renan Jeffereis email: renanj@jeffereis.org

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.

Executive Committee

President: John Stone

John.W.Stone4@boeing.com

Vice-President: Darin Forkenbrock

forkenbrock@gmail.com

Secretary/Treasurer: Willy Chang

chang98@comcast.net

Editor: Joe Pittman

joe@kosmic.us

Committee Chairs

Equipment: Terry Olson

CornyGuy@aol.com

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.

Disclaimer

Opinions in this Audioletter are those of their authors; the Pacific Northwest Audio Society itself does not endorse or criticize products. Copyright 2010 by the Pacific Northwest Audio Society except as noted; all rights reserved.

No part of this publication may be reprinted or otherwise reproduced without the written permission of the

**Pacific Northwest
Audio Society**

Bringing Audio Enthusiasts Together Since 1978

PO Box 435, Mercer Island, WA 98040