

VALVE

VINTAGE AUDIO LISTENERS AND VALVE ENTHUSIASTS

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"Give me a JBL 12 or 15 inch one with crossover and horn anyway!"
Fred Suffield,
P.E.

”

home theater, 50's style

Well, you guys who missed the last meeting are really gonna kick yourselves. You missed Rick and Tina cutting a rug at our vintage disco.

The meeting was obviously quite informal.

I had managed to scrounge the proper parts to repair one damaged crossover in time for the meeting so we got to hear the A7's in stereo. Attendance was light so we pushed back the chairs and cranked 'em

up. And danced.

Now I don't like horn speakers as a rule, but these A7's aren't bad. With the Stereo 70 the tweets seemed a bit harsh and throaty. I later adjusted the crossover for 6dB attenuation and they really smoothed out.

The real surprise was how nice the triode amp I've been putting together sounded with them. I am now willing to concede that triodes and horns can sound very good. Thanks to Mike for inspiring me to try 'em.

I will go so far as to say that I A/B'd an A7 with triode amp against a Magnepan with Mark III and except for better bass from the Magnepan (no kidding!) they were very close.

CLASSIC RADIO'S REFERENCE SYSTEM
JUNE, 94
SPEAKERS - ALTEC A7 'VOICE OF THE THEATRE'
AMPS - CLASSIC RADIO MOD STEREO 70,
CLASSIC RADIO "TRIOPHONY" PROTOTYPE
PREAMP - APT HOLMAN
PHONO - DENON DP6000/DA305/AUDIOQUEST 404
CD - ONKYO DX1400
TUNER - KENWOOD L-07T
OPEN REEL - AMPEX 850

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a letter from fred

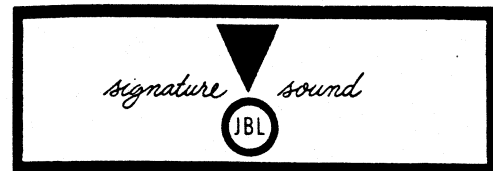
You will remember Fred Suffield from last month's letters column.

Member Fred is an engineer with tons of experience in audio dating back to hi-fi's early days.

Last time I spoke with him he was recalling his associations with Jim Lansing, John Hilliard, and Bob Stephens. When he offered to put some of his recollections on paper for the newsletter I jumped at the opportunity!

Here's what he has to say about the 'golden age':

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STEPHENS



VOLUME 1
NUMBER 5
JULY 1994

Dan Schmale,
editor

Next Meeting
6/10/94 12 noon

"Thought I would write a few lines about the 1945-60 time period in Los Angeles relative to loudspeakers.

Before and during WW-II the Los Angeles area was primarily a motion picture center, with some TV development, and the large Aircraft manufacturers were just becoming the large input to the economy.

Western Electric and RCA had outlets for their theatre equipment. Altec Lansing was the first dominant manufacturer of speakers in the larger sizes, Paul Tartak made small 4-5 inch ones for 5 tube radios. Jim Lansing was the design engineer for Altec and was responsible for their original line of speakers. Bob Stephens, of the TruSonic line, made his for high quality home and small theater use.

Then Jim Lansing had a falling out with the Altec people and left to form James B. Lansing Sound Company, which became the JBL logo. John Hilliard became Chief Engineer for Altec.

At the IRE local meetings Jim and John used to eat together and argue the whole evening

about speaker philosophy. Jim believed in the maximum efficiency, and his line showed that. The younger engineers would always try to sit near these two experts in order to learn what they could. Today we see so many speaker manufacturers who require ten to a hundred watts into their speakers in order to hear anything! Give me a JBL 12 or 15 inch one with crossover and horn anyway!

Bob Stephens had a large barn like place where he not only assembled his speakers, but could demonstrate them. He had an acoustically treated area in a 'U' shape, with a series of his speakers running around the sides. They ran from his home size 12" to his multi thousand dollar theater systems. He fed them from a wide range tape from the NY Philharmonic and a very good amplifier. When someone came in to buy he would find out how much they wanted to spend, and never show them a speaker over that amount. One listen to the \$2000 job and your home \$150 unit would not sound so good!

When I was Program

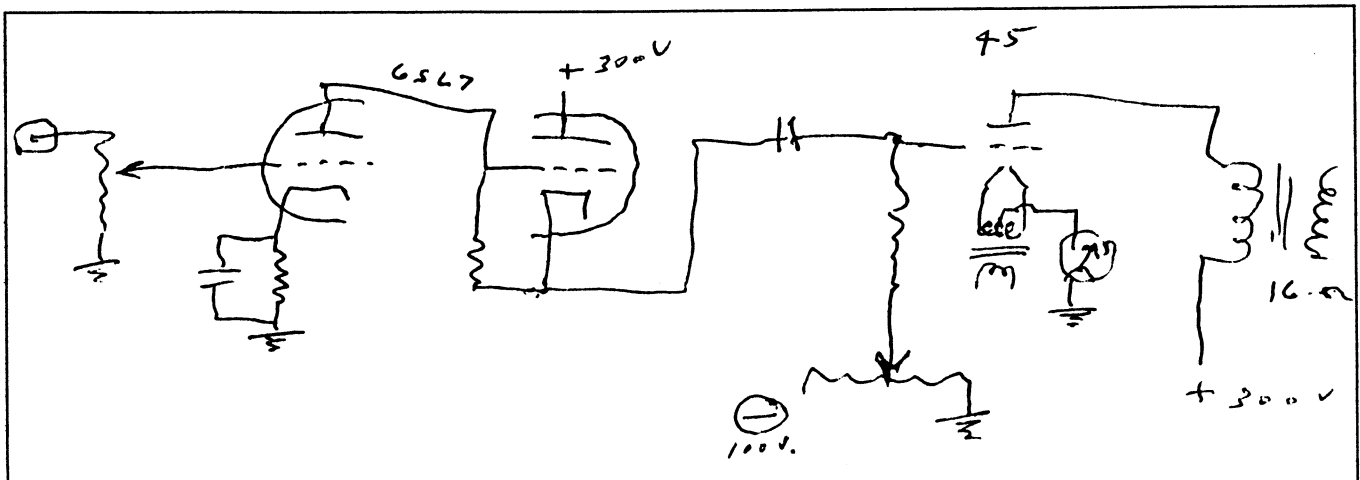
Chairman for the WESCON conventions I would always ask John Hilliard to be the source of the Audio papers, this was after Jim had passed on. When John accepted the job of assembling the audio portion of the program, within about 10 days I would receive a list of speakers, subjects, abstracts, biographies, pictures, all done!

The broadcast stations were great to work with on the technical conventions, for example, one station allowed the conference committee to meet in their main studio, at one end, while an announcer was speaking and playing records over the air at the other end (KMPC)!

Have been looking for a small single ended output to play around with, the Tango U-808 (\$99 - ed.) looks like it would do the job. Have a Triad HSM-79 that works great. I put together a simple test setup, used a 45 as the output tube! Put a 0-50 mill meter in the plate lead and adjust the negative grid bias to keep the plate current around 35 mills. FM input and sounds great on the 15" JBL.

Very best regards,

Fred"



At this point I must offer a few corrections to my description of the A7's we auditioned.

To begin with they are the 500Hz crossover model with 500Hz horn.

Also, the woofers are model 412's, reputed to sound better than those mentioned in last month's article.

I have also learned from Eric that both woofers and one compression driver were totally fried when he found them so they have been rebuilt.

When I opened the crossovers I found 2mfd dipped caps in the smoothing network that had exploded, and a fried coil. Obviously the previous owners hooked them up to a 6 million watt amp and screamed through them for a while.

Eric has been kind enough to let me use the A7's for an extended time to fine tune my triode amps. Considering that they are supposed to be good only 40Hz to 10kHz (I have not verified this), I would conjecture that a lot of 30Hz- 20kHz speakers around these days aren't really that wide range. Of course I'm in my advanced 30's so I can't hear anything above 15kHz anyway. - dan

**NEXT MEETING SECOND
SUNDAY JULY 10, 1994
SWAP MEET AT 10 AM
MEETING AT NOON**

Hey, we need more members!

I'm sending out another call to members to help build our ranks. Hopefully you've seen the great plugs we've gotten in Antique Radio Classified. We will also be listed in the club announcements in Glass Audio. The Old Technology Shop, Hawthorne Stereo, and Classic Audio all receive complementary newsletters which they display on their counters (if you don't know Classic Audio, they're at 7313 Greenwood in Seattle. Tell Jim that Dan sent you.).

Mention the club to anyone you do audio business with. Talk it up at swaps, tell dealers about us.

I talked with a very pleasant fellow recently at a radio swap and found that he had some extremeley exotic equipment. Within 20 minutes he was a member. It's easy to get people to join once they know about us. Remember, the more members, the more cool stuff we get to see and hear!

Done any interesting projects lately? Why don't you share your experience with us? You don't need to write a formal article, unless you'd like to. Just send us a letter, pictures, schematics, etc. We'll put it in an upcoming issue.

Send your correspondence to VALVE, 1127 N.W. Brite Star Lane, Poulsbo, WA 98370 or call 206-697-1936.

the library -

New items this month:

- RCA Radiotron Designer's Handbook
- Dynaco transformer catalog
- An article by Hafler on upgrading the Williamson amp to EL34 output
- The Saga of the Vacuum Tube
- The Book of Jazz
- Jazz, Its Evolution and Essence
- The Norton Scores, vol.1
- Old Colony Sound Lab catalog on disk

Thanks once again for your contributions!

Remember, members get copies of any of this material for just a nickel a page.

what's brewin' ?

Those of you who who attended the June meeting heard my heavily jumpered and breadboarded 6CK4 triode amp. Well, one monoblock is complete, and the other may be done by the end of the month. The sound and test results have convinced me that triode output is really the way to go. We'll demo these when I finish the stereo pair. They should be great with Eric's A7's.

Speaking of triodes, Mike built a pair of single ended amps using, I believe, 6B4G's. He has also gone high tech with his Altec 604's. They are biamped, subwoofer augmented, and enclosed in doubled MDF and exotic black polymer paint.

New member Steven is having a couple of Ampex decks rebuilt with future plans for some 3 channel dubs.

CLASSIC RADIO OF LIBERTY BAY

PRESENTS A FREE MONTHLY

ANTIQUUE RADIO & VINTAGE HI-FI SWAP MEET

ON THE FIRST SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH
FROM 10-12

*STAY FOR THE MEETING OF **VALVE***

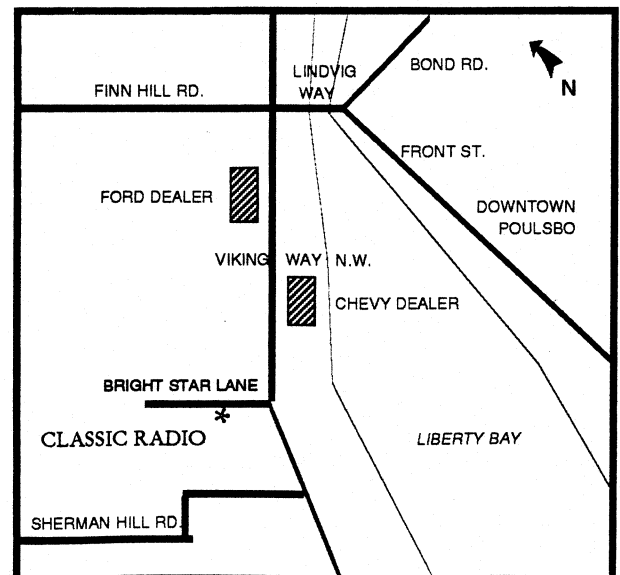
A NEW CLUB FOR VINTAGE AUDIO ENTHUSIASTS

MEETING STARTS AT NOON, GUESTS ARE WELCOME!

*THE SWAP MEET WILL BE
HELD IN OUR PARKING LOT,
1127 N.W. BRITE STAR LANE,
OFF VIKING WAY, POULSBO
(1 BL. N. OF SHERMAN HILL)
FOR INFORMATION CALL*

206-697-1936

*AUDIOPHILES, RADIO
COLLECTORS, EVERYONE IS
WELCOME!*



letters

Distinguished author

Last month I sent letters to a couple of authors of articles in The Audio Amateur and Glass Audio who live in the area. I received a very nice response from Dick Moore ("Build An A-Weighting Filter," TAA 2/92; "ANSI Update," Letters, TAA 3/92) and subsequently had a nice phone conversation with him. Here's some excerpts from our communications:

Dear Dan:

I've moved since you wrote me, and it took the Post Office awhile to get your letter to my new address. As you guessed, I am the Dick Moore who has written some things for TAA. I'm sorry I missed the June 4th meeting, but I just couldn't get it together to get up to Poulsbo. I would like to be informed about your next meeting date, however; perhaps I can make one soon.

I was glad to see that your members have a good assortment of test equipment. I'm enclosing a list of the stuff I have, so that perhaps we can all see what our common resources are. Some of my professional life has been spent as a speaker designer for Klipsch and for a/d/s, and I spent a number of years in acoustical consulting and commercial sound work. I worked for Tektronix in manufacturing and in the Research Division, and for Monsanto, as a member of the team which designed and built their line of digital instrumentation. I started my hi-fi life with tube designs and equipment, and still have some tube ideas I'd like to build, though I was and am happy with solid state audio designs and sound quality. _____

Anyway, I enthusiastically support your club goals, and will help any member in any way I can. Circulate my phone and fax numbers, and let me know your upcoming meeting dates/times.

Dick's equipment:

Tek7603 scope with 7A15A, 7A26, 7B53A. Would like to find 7A13 and 7D15 cheap.
Fluke 887AB Diff. AC/DC Voltmeter; microV to 1100V, 6 dig, 0.01% acc.
Dana 5000 5-1/2 dig DVM
Cordell Sine wave Osc. on Heath chassis, 10Hz-110kHz, <0.0003% THD at 1kHz <0.003% thru audio band
Cordell THD analyzer ,0.0005% THD @ 1kHz, <0.005% thru audio range, 0.002% @ 100 kHz
HP 7560B 2 channel log amp, audio freq. rsnge w/ > 50dB dynamic range
HP 3300A func. gen. < 20Hz - 100 kHz, w/ 3305A log sweep unit
HP X-Y plotter for freq. response
GR 1564A sound & vib. analyzer 300 microV-300V, 25Hz-25kHz 1/3 or 1/10 octave sweep filter res.
3/8" mic (like "Mighty Mike")
HP 403 analog AC Voltmeter w/ dB scale (0.2 dB res.)
HP 5328A/H99 100MHz counter w/ dual inputs, 500Mhz prescaler, 8 dig display. Time base needs calibration. Anybody have a WWVB 60kHz receiver or NIST freq. standard?
HP 608D RF osc.
Daven 0-110 dB attenuator, 1dB & 10 dB steps
Sundry small useful things like stereo pink noise generator, A-wtd noise filter/amp, transistor curve tracer (leader) for use w/ x/y capable scope.
GR SLM calibrator (1567)

july

At the June meeting Rick very generously invited us to see his collection at his home at a future meeting. Unfortunately Rick will be out of town in July so we will attempt to coordinate this later in the summer. I think this will be a 'members only affair' to keep attendance to a reasonable size. So I have an alternate plan. Last week I stopped by Dave's to test my new amp with his QUADs. For source material Dave brought out his master of a recital he recorded at a Seattle church with an RCA ribbon mike and a Nagra portable deck. In spite of the background noise of an occasional truck rumbling by his listening room, the audition was fabulous. He played a duet for flute and bassoon that picked up the perfect amount of resonance of both instruments without sounding the least bit overmiked. When Dave apologized for the truck noise on the tape I damn near fell out of my chair! It's that good. Dave will bring it to the July meeting. See you the second Sunday in Poulsbo. dan

**THE NEXT
MEETING IS ON
THE SECOND
SUNDAY, JULY 10
12 NOON**