Google Chrome users: be sure to refresh your browser window to get the latest content.

AES Audio Engineering Society - Pacific Northwest Section

Around the Puget Sound, Seattle, Washington, U.S.A.

AESPNW Section Meeting
November 2023 Meeting Notice
Get To Know Your Gear with Free Test Software
Presented by
Peterson Goodwyn
diyrecordingequipment.com
and
AES Pacific Northwest Section
Erin Shellman, Meeting Producer
Thursday, November 9,
6PM PST(note odd time)

NOTE: This hybrid meeting starts at 6pmPST to accommodate our presenter who will be joining us from Philadelphia on Zoom. Local people are welcome to join us in person at Jack Straw Studios in the University District in Seattle (see directions below) to see the presentation and some of the DIY devices that Erin Shellman, meeting Producer, has built. Please register (free) via the Eventbrite link to attend in person or via Zoom.

Directions to Jack Straw Click here for directions to Jack Straw Studios

How often have you wondered if a piece of gear is working properly? How often have you wondered, "Just how good is this thing?" In the past (and not so long ago), evaluating the performance of a random piece of gear could take anywhere from minutes for a simple single-frequency measurement, to hours for a piece with many settings, such as a graphic equalizer. Plotting a response curve was a test of patience and perseverance (do you remember plotting quadratic equations in algebra class?): Set frequency, measure output, plot point. Change frequency, measure output, plot point, repeat until the output is back to where the first point was. Connect the points, either freehand or using a French Curve. Imagine doing this for a 31-band equalizer. What if you wanted to see what the curve shape looked like at intermediate settings? In days past, unless you had some kind of strip-chart recorder such as made by General Radio or B&K, it's what you had to do.

Years ago, some smart guys at Tektronix had the bright idea of making an audio measurement system that used an IBM PC as its control panel. You'd set up the test parameters on the PC, then tell it to make the measurement. The suits at Tek just couldn't see it, so the smart guys quit and started a new company called Audio Precision. The rest is audio history. They revolutionized the world of audio meaurements. Making a frequency response plot was as simple as pressing [f9] on the keyboard. One problem, when first introduced, the Audio Precision System One was about $10k.

In this meeting, we'll explore using free software tools such as Room Eq Wizard to measure and compare analog gear. Rest assured that the price is within the reach of the average person. Following the meeting we'll adjourn to a nearby Thai Restaurant for a no-host dinner and networking. We hope you can join us. PLEASE sign up at Eventbrite if you're attending in person so we can know how many will be coming to dinner. If you are attending via Zoom, you still need to use the Eventbrite link in order to get the Zoom URL. Thanks!

About the Presenter

In 2009, Peterson Goodwyn was a freelance drummer and recording engineer struggling to pay for the great gear he wanted to use for making hit records. Then he found out that with a little patience and research he could build that gear for a fraction of the price of buying it.

That revelation led to the creation of diyrecordingequipment.com in 2010 to document the DIY audio projects he found and to encourage other musicians and engineers to build their own equipment.

Soon after, the company released the LINE2AMP Re-amplifier kit, the first DIY kit designed specifically to introduce beginners to the world of DIY pro audio. Today, DIY Recording Equipment sells an ever-growing selection of kits to DIYers all over the world. They are committed to brilliant design, affordable pricing, and delightful customer service.

Eventbrite link

Please use this link to get your Eventbrite "ticket" for this event. You need to do this whether you're attending in person or via Zoom.

Eventbrite link for November

A Note from the Chair

Section Chair, Dan Mortensen, had some thoughts about the how and why we present meetings the way we did. You are encouraged to click the link to read it. Thoughts about meeting presentation.

THIS EVENT IS FREE, OPEN TO ALL, AND AES MEMBERSHIP IS NOT REQUIRED

Dan Mortensen

AES PNW 2022-2025 Section Chair

> **n.b.** *The material presented at our meetings is the opinion of the presenter and not necessarily that of the Society. You are encouraged to conduct your own research and to form your own opinions before adopting the presented material as Truth.*

About AES PNW Section Hybrid On-Line/In-Person Meetings

We've been presenting meetings on Zoom since the second month of the pandemic, and have been thrilled to meet the wide variety of audio enthusiasts who have joined us from literally all over the world. The modern-day miracle of being able to interact in real time audio and video with people thousands of miles away and thousands of miles apart from each other has been both incredible and incredibly gratifying for us, and from you have told us, for you as well. As we find our way through how to maintain that far-flung community as we go back to in-person meetings, which have different needs and limitations compared to online, but also much more intense and meaningful personal interactions, we try different things and attempt to keep those that work for us all, or are the best compromise.

We have always made a point at our meetings of having all attendees introduce themselves to the group, and briefly share their interest and connection to audio. Since "audio" is really a huge discipline with many possible avenues for interests and careers, it's always great to hear the different ways people have found to approach the subject. Our goal at these meetings has always been for the remote people to be able to see and hear what's going on in the room, and for those in the room to be able to see and hear the remote people as if they are in the room, and for all to interact as easily as if they were all present in the same space at the same time, and for our presenters to be able to interact comfortably with all.

Presenters can get a feel for those in the room by looking at them directly and seeing their expressions over time, but getting that level of familiarity with those online is more difficult. We've discovered recently that having the entire group do their self-introductions at the beginning lets everyone not only share their own stories, but to marvel together at how we can interact together so easily about our shared love of audio. That, to us, is a definition of "Community" and we intend to continue that until it doesn't work anymore. When that happens, we'll try something else.

Therefore, unless the presenter prefers to do the meeting differently, we'll have at least some of the audience introduce themselves before the presentation starts. This also helps determine if someone is having an audio or video problem before the presentation, and to have time to fix it or figure out a workaround (using Chat to ask a question, for example) instead of having the presentation come to a dead stop while we try to hear the question.

The technical presentation of a hybrid meeting is considerably more complex than simply a room, a video projector and screen, and something to sit on, and, in the absence of a dedicated studio and the presence of an all-volunteer presenting organization, results in a pretty significant contribution from a number of people, which, given the level of appreciation we receive, is a pleasure to do.

Thank you again for choosing to come to our meetings.

Dan Mortensen
AES PNW Section Chair
(2023-25/ 2022-23/ 2016-18/ 2011-12/ 2004-07/ 1996-97)