Subject: Lone Star Audio Fest Update
Posted by Shane on Sun, 01 Mar 2009 03:42:12 GMT
View Forum Message <> Reply to Message

A venue has finally been secured for this year. The fest will be held at Embassy Suites Dallas Park Central on June 19-21st.Please make your reservations as soon as possible to make sure you can secure a room on the same floor. Just mention at the time of making your reservation that you are with the LSAF and that will secure you a discounted rate as well as a room on the same floor. If you have any other questions please contact me at shanemmail-lsaf@yahoo.com. If you would like to have your name added to the exhibitor list please email myself or go through the LSAF website at http://www.lonestaraudiofest.com and goto the registration tab. As an added note, if you could please shoot me an email to let me know you have made reservations that would be great as I don't know if the Embassy has their site set up for keeping track yet.Remember, you don't have to be in the audio business to exhibit. It's great if the DIY's bring their gear for us to hear!!!Look forward to seeing everyone there!!Shane
LSAF Website

Subject: Re: Lone Star Audio Fest Update
Posted by Wayne Parham on Sun, 01 Mar 2009 17:11:52 GMT
View Forum Message <> Reply to Message

Excellent, Shane, thanks for all your efforts!I'll be there for sure!

Subject: Re: Lone Star Audio Fest Update
Posted by FredT on Mon, 02 Mar 2009 18:07:27 GMT
View Forum Message <> Reply to Message

Shane, thanks for doing the footwork to make this happen. I'll definitely be there, and this time I'll be exhibiting something or other. It's much more fun when you're exhibiting. I'll shoot you an email when I've made my room reservations.

Subject: Re: Lone Star Audio Fest Update
Posted by Shane on Mon, 02 Mar 2009 21:21:16 GMT
View Forum Message <> Reply to Message

Looking forward to seeing what you bring this year Fred.

Subject: Re: Lone Star Audio Fest Update
Posted by SteveBrown on Wed, 11 Mar 2009 19:40:28 GMT
View Forum Message <> Reply to Message

This is great! I'm all registered and really excited this is happening!

Subject: Re: Lone Star Audio Fest Update
Posted by FredT on Tue, 17 Mar 2009 19:40:35 GMT
View Forum Message <> Reply to Message

This year I believe I'll bring the AudioFred One's, which are the Parts Express BR1 speaker kit that I build for friends with some internal bracing. I sell these for my cost, and several people have used these speakers to build systems whose total cost including source, amplification, speakers, speaker stands, and all cables is less than $400. Of course the system I'll exhibit the BR1's with will be quite a bit more expensive. It incudes a $300 Cambridge Audio integrated and a $160 Oppo universal player. A ridiculously expensive "audiosnob" system.I'll definitely be there, but my objective at this time is to attract a few Houston audio manufacturers to join us. So far I've discussed it with Dennis Deacon of D-Sonic amps and Jim Goulding of Diffractionbegone, and both seem interested.

Subject: Re: Lone Star Audio Fest Update
Posted by Wayne Parham on Tue, 17 Mar 2009 23:00:23 GMT
View Forum Message <> Reply to Message

I'd like to put a link to your stuff on the LSAF site, on both the exhibitors and photos pages. People always comment that your room sounds great. Be thinking about how we should list it and let me know.

Subject: Re: Lone Star Audio Fest Update
Posted by FredT on Wed, 18 Mar 2009 02:24:25 GMT
View Forum Message <> Reply to Message

I'll get back with you. There's a story about this. My Houston Audio Society friends own relatively expensive systems, typcially costing $20-$40K. One member's system cost far more than $250K. We've discussed the problem of how to get friends, relatives, and neighbors into high end audio, and the problem is that most of the people we know could easily afford a $10K system, but they are psycologically unprepared to spend that much on a stereo. In spite of the fact that they may

drive a Mercedes S-series car, the idea of a stereo costing more than $500 is something they can't get their mind to embrace.Linda and I do lots of entertaining in our home, and inevitably the guys who visit want to hear the big Selah XT-8 line arrays driven by Krell amplification, and are blown away by the sound. When they ask how much a sytem like mine costs, instead of telling them the actual price, I tell them it cost a lot, but I have a system upstair that cost less than $500, and both they and their wife will like it. Then I bring them upsairs, put on a CD I know their wife will like, and sit her (not him) in the sweet spot to listen.I'm convinced the answer is to get a correctly-set-up $500 system into their home, and after they have listened to their favorite music on it while drinking a glass of good merlot they will be back for more and better. The upstairs system includes the Parts Express BR1's, a mass market DVD player, and a $100 Best Buy Insignia stereo receiver. I've even built some low tech high mass stands for the BR1's. They're cinderblocks from Home Depot. The speaker cables are Blue Jeans bulk $0.68/ft Belden. Every non-audiophile I sit in the sweet spot to hear this system is amazed, and several have bought the BR1's and the mass market electronics I recommend.

Subject: Re: Lone Star Audio Fest Update
Posted by FredT on Wed, 18 Mar 2009 02:32:33 GMT
View Forum Message <> Reply to Message

Forgot to mention, I have a small (32") LCD TV on the top shelf of the equipment rack, and I strongly recommend to people who hear my stetem that they get a DVD player with upscaling and HDMI output. This will enbable them to view DVD's in relatively high definition, with the added advantage of a good two channel audio system set up to complement the TV. I know that placing a TV between the speakers is anathema to may two channel stereo lovers, but everybody watches DVD's, and this system is light years better than a Sony 5.1 HT-in-a-box system with plastic speakers. Remember, the strategic objective isn't to get them the best two channel system they are willing to buy, but to get them the two channel system they will enjoy the most.

Subject: Re: Lone Star Audio Fest Update
Posted by Wayne Parham on Wed, 18 Mar 2009 16:30:31 GMT
View Forum Message <> Reply to Message

I agree with you, 100%. Last year, I wanted to get a real good audio CD player and I also wanted a nice blue ray video disc player. I gave the then brand new Denon DVD3800BDCI player a chance. The sound is surprisingly good, I think the best sound I've ever heard from a digital source. I chose a flat screen plasma, and the soundtracks on movies are wonderful so it's great for sight and sound.

Subject: Re: Lone Star Audio Fest Update
Posted by Shane on Thu, 19 Mar 2009 04:33:13 GMT
View Forum Message <> Reply to Message

Fred, that is entirely too high end for this show

Subject: Re: Lone Star Audio Fest Update
Posted by FredT on Mon, 13 Apr 2009 19:24:29 GMT
View Forum Message <> Reply to Message

Shane, I booked my reservations, and I will be exhibiting under the name "AudioFred Low End Audio...Specializing in mid-fi sound for the discriminating doublewide owner". What else would you expect when you buy speakers from a guy named Fred? I'll be exhibiting the world's best sounding under-$400 sytem, featuring the Parts Express BR-1 Reference monitor speakers ($195 assembled with much-needed additional enclosure bracing and upgraded internal wiring, the $99 Best Buy Insignia two channel receiver, and a $45 Phillips DVD player from Wal Mart. For the audiophile with deep pockets I'll also be exhibiting the world's best under-$700 system using the BR-1's with the $260 Virtue Audio Virtue One class T integrated amplifier and the $160 Oppo DV-980H universal player.I'm not in the speaker business, and I have no desire to enter that snake pit, but I will build a pair of BR-1's with the extra enclosure bracing for anybody who asks for $195, which is my cost with the extras I put into them.While this may all seem like a joke, the purpose is to demonstrate to non-audiphiles that you don't have to spend a fortune to have good sound in your home. Everybody listens to music, and most do it on equipment that doesn't approach the cabability of even a mid fi system. Most music lovers would like to hear better sound, and many can afford a really good system, but there's a big psylogical barrier to spending even as little as $1K on a complete system if you've never thought about it before. My under $400 system is accessible to almost everyone, and it's likely if they build mine, next year they will return to some others LSAF commercial exhibitors for better equipment. It's like giving away dime bags of crack cocaine.No experienced listener will confuse either of these systems with high end, but even the under-$400 version sounds amazingly coherent and involving. Adding the Virtue One and the Oppo takes the system to a level that rivals most $1K to $1.5K systems I've heard.

Subject: Re: Lone Star Audio Fest Update
Posted by FredT on Mon, 13 Apr 2009 21:29:47 GMT
View Forum Message <> Reply to Message

I was wondering if anybody who lives in Dallas has thought about inviting the local high end audio salons like Audio Concepts to rent a room and exhibit an entry level system like a pair of Paradigm monitors with NAD electronics. I've sold luxury items before, and the hardest thing to do in that kind of business is to get new customers to walk through your front door. Anybody who exhibits will see at least 100 people who probably would never visit their shop, all for about $250

in hotel room cost. I would do this but I'm not in Dallas and don't know the local dealers.

Subject: Re: Lone Star Audio Fest Update
Posted by Shane on Thu, 23 Apr 2009 17:41:30 GMT
View Forum Message <> Reply to Message

Sounds like your setup will be right up my alley!

Subject: Re: Lone Star Audio Fest Update
Posted by Shane on Thu, 23 Apr 2009 17:43:11 GMT
View Forum Message <> Reply to Message

We have been discussing this on and off for a month or so. I'm hoping we can get Paul to get the word out. I'd like to make up some flyers to put in the local shops as well.

Subject: Re: Lone Star Audio Fest Update
Posted by FredT on Fri, 24 Apr 2009 14:27:54 GMT
View Forum Message <> Reply to Message

The key is to convince them to set up a room and demo some affordable equipment. If they have a demo room they will want to advertise it; if they don't they will not want their customers to know about it. It's that simple. Convincing them requires that somebody actually visit their store and talk this up with the owner. Ideally it would be somebody who already knows the owner. If this were in Houston it would be very easy because we have a viable audio society and the owners of the local high end stores know our leaders very well.
