

In Memoriam



Scott William Curry
1959–2008

Scott William Curry died on July 31st after a long battle with pancreatic cancer. He left us much too soon at the age of 48. He was born in Santa Monica and raised in Hermosa Beach, California. Scott is survived by his wife Susan, his children Chris, Devan, Summre, and grandchild Emilie. Scott was an accomplished musician in his youth and eventually became interested in sound engineering. Sound guy Scott toured worldwide with dozens of major acts of the time. Later in his life he used his talents in sound engineering for charity events in the Los Angeles area. During the last 10 years Scott worked in the cellular/telecommunications industry as an electrical grounding consultant in the Seattle and Portland areas. He always made his clients his friends. Scott's son Devan will continue in his father's footsteps with the company Scott built. An informal memorial was held in Scott's honor in Hermosa Beach on the beach on August 14th. It was Scott's wish that his ashes be spread in Kauai, Hawaii.

Susan Curry



Ari Varla
1956–2008

Ari Varla, long-time principal electroacoustic design scientist at Genelec Oy, Iisalmi, Fin-

land, succumbed to a prolonged illness on August 22nd. Ari Varla was born in 1956. He received an M.Sc. degree in electronic engineering from Tampere University of Technology in 1987 and joined Genelec in 1980 during his university studies, staying with Genelec his entire working career. He was one of the key figures at Genelec Oy. The company would not be the same without his life-long contribution. He has been centrally involved in designing most Genelec products, altogether more than 60 loudspeaker system designs for mainly professional audio monitoring, most of them still in active production. Ari was one of the best and most renowned experts in loudspeaker system design. His pioneering work with waveguide-loaded direct-radiating mid- and high-frequency drivers, dubbed DCW by Genelec, began in the early 1980s and has resulted in their global acceptance as a significant part of modern multiway designs for professional audio monitoring. He was also one of the central figures in the development leading to the low-distortion LSE subwoofer enclosure concept. He holds several patents and has published numerous papers on loudspeaker design.

Ari was an inspiration to all of us at Genelec throughout the years. Despite his serious illness, Ari elected to continue to work intensively with new loudspeaker designs as long as he humanly could, displaying that acoustics and loudspeaker design were truly a life calling to him. He was a firm proponent of applying the highest engineering standards in loudspeaker system design. He advocated novel designs, drawing from the very principles of acoustics in an inventive manner. His expertise was wide, from driver and loudspeaker system concept design to optimizing production methods and tools. His work was methodical and systematic, and this, along with his deep knowledge and excellent intuition of the acoustic phenomena, has deeply inspired the several generations of younger engineers who had the

privilege to work under him. His principles of maximizing the total system quality and methodologies in achieving them are deeply rooted in Genelec engineering methods. Ari had the skills to design all the aspects of the electroacoustic chain of an active loudspeaker, from the electronic filtering and signal processing operations through to the power amplifier characteristics and the properties and construction of drivers and their enclosure systems. Ari was also extremely adept in manually fabricating elaborate electroacoustic prototypes, bending all materials to his needs. This was also witnessed by his free-time activities in the form of BMW cars renovated to perfection, immaculately refurbished fishing gear, electric guitars, and in particular vintage tube guitar amplifiers of which he was an acknowledged expert. In addition to playing the guitar, Ari's hobbies included fishing and astronomy. He always had his fishing boat ready on a trailer to go to any of the local lakes or to the more distant salmon rivers of Lapland. He enjoyed making very tasty food with his family and friends. He designed and built his own Dobsonian 20-inch telescope, fitting it in the trunk of his BMW to be easily transported to a any suitable location for observations.

Ari had a great sense of humor and could see the comic side to many issues. He frequently made sharp-eyed remarks about any triviality or artificiality of human life. There was no topic where he could not find a surprising and often humorous angle to share in a meeting or at the cafeteria table, and all who knew him do remember his magnificent laughter.

Even though we knew of his cancer for some time, the rapid final progressions of the illness has now suddenly left his family, his friends, and the entire Genelec community as well as many partners worldwide in a deep and sudden grief.

Aki Mäkivirta, Ilpo Martikainen,
Veikko Hyvönen, Lars-Olof Janflod,
Siamäk Naghian