

HHC 2022

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Introduction

HHC 2022 planning and decision making are progressing nicely. All Committee members are doing their share to make the 2022 Conference as successful as the past Conferences have been. The focal point for everyone involved is the web page - WHO, and Attendees page. David maintains the website and sometimes he is on the road so some updates may not be immediate. The attendance and what is being presented are the key points. Attendance wise we are about “as expected” in terms of numbers. See our numbers (21) for last year. Also see the section on presentations below.

HHC purpose and objectives

The primary purpose of an HHC is to have fun and learn. The weekend schedule is very full to take all of your time so don't plan on squeezing in any extra activity on Saturday or Sunday. Often there are excursions of groups on Friday and Monday. These will be discussed on the HHC 2022 website.

As the <https://hhuc.us/> website notes an objective of the Conference is to document the activities of the calculator user community, and is especially HP oriented. We are doing an excellent job of this. See the Conference USB drive section below for additional details.

First timers

The Conference is often discussed on the HP Museum site. I don't have time to hang out there so I depend on others to alert me to any exciting news etc. I always talk to those who are new to the unusual concept/format of an HHC. Usually the comments are; I have always wanted to attend and now I am here, later followed by, I wish I had come sooner . . .

I can only say that many of us “old timers” are experiencing major changes in our lives that might impact our ability to carry on the tradition started in 1979. This is a valid question. The attendance is always the biggest issue for planning. Obviously our attendance is declining, especially impacted by COVID 19. The location has also proven to be a factor – the West coast often peaks the attendance numbers.

If you have always wondered if the fun and enjoyment of an HHC Conference is really what it appears to be, then you should seriously consider attending HHC 2022. It is really an open and friendly group and if you are a technically oriented person you will have fun.

Interested calculator users may sign up for the “list” to keep informed of HHC related activities, announcements, etc. See the bottom of the opening page of the website - <https://hhuc.us/2022/index.htm>

Presentations

The number of presentations are far greater than what is currently (end of June) listed. While I always encourage every speaker to get theirs listed there are two reasons why they tend to be added as we get closer to the Conference weekend.

1. The presenter is working on his project and isn't sure it will be finished in time.
2. The topic is time sensitive (new product) and pre-announcement is not desirable. Sometimes a cryptic topic is listed so as not to “spill the beans.” This was more common when HP was still active in producing new models and they gave attendees confidential details.

I personally know that both reasons apply for (so far) unlisted presentations. Just compare the website for last year – 16 listed, 21 presented (per video list in the Conference report). You may watch each of them using links in the report for HHC 2021.

Conference USB drive.

Last year we (especially Eric) gathered calculator files and we filled a 128 GB drive. This is a single source, sans duplicates, for the most complete single resource of information on hand held calculators you will find anywhere, no ifs, ands, or buts. You may search the internet and spend a lot of time, but the HHC USB drive is much more convenient, and you have it all with you at all times. It even contains websites long gone from the internet.

This year the Committee decided to build on that resource and add even more material of videos, all known newsletters, literature, photographs, all Conference proceedings, etc. rather than editing. The HHC 2022 USB drive will be 256 GB and our best estimate is that we could possibly fill it – no duplicates. WE said the same thing about the 128 GB.

There is one USB Drive issue that especially came to everyone's attention last year. The drive was not copyable by 99.99% of users. This wasn't by design, but simply due to the "fullness" of the drive. Unless you have an image copy capability you would have to use a larger drive and allow many many hours for your computer to make a copy. Many have tried and many had to give up. The 2022 USB drive will be available after the Conference for those who want this incredible useful resource. See the finances section below. Additional details from my HHC 2021 Report are copied here.

"A Few Words of Caution from Eric: Because the 128 GB HHC 2021 drive is over 99% full, with over 800,000 files, it can be difficult and time consuming to duplicate it. Copying the files individually can potentially take an entire day, so duplicating the drive as an image with software like ImageUSB is recommended. Because not all "128 GB" drives are the same size, even from the same brand and model number, a "128 GB" target drive may not even be big enough, so a larger drive may be necessary to fit everything.

Some user software will indicate false reports of viruses, etc. The drive you get from Eric is clean and it has been examined and verified to be virus free."

Conference activities

You may read my report of last year's conference to get a good idea of what an HHC is like. We do take the documentation aspect seriously and I may even give a short presentation on this topic. No, it is not website listed because it is "if time allows." Another aspect of an HHC Conference is the open informal free exchange of information that allows every attendee to get answers and solutions to problems.

One of the format aspects of an HHC Conference is that it is an exploration activity to learn new subjects. Yes, we discuss other topics, and even I will talk about a TI calculator this year, choke! If time allows I will also use a new tool I just treated myself to, a 180X zoom stereo microscope. While it may not be as exciting as my HHC 2004 presentation using my company's X-ray machine to examine an HP-17BII+ titled: *Superman Looks at the HP-17BII+*, it should provide another perspective on calculators. BTW the Superman presentation is on the 2021 USB Drive under the HHC folder, then by year.

We often have our three Conference meals (two lunches, and sometimes Saturday diner) which is included with the Conference donation. You may see the details in last year's report.

I was reading an article (link below) about Tesla using AI to train their autonomous driving software. David's 2016 Model S has been accepted into the beta program for Full Self Driving software. It seems that, per the article, Tesla is years ahead of the competition because it was a requirement built into the operation of every Tesla.

<https://www.quora.com/Why-havent-bigger-and-more-experienced-car-manufacturers-been-able-to-make-better-self-driving-software-than-Tesla>

David will be driving his Tesla to Nashville. He will be demonstrating while he is at the Conference. Perhaps a few attendees will score a ride in it. David once mentioned the fun of standing in front of a grocery store and summoning his Tesla by phone to come and pick him up. Watching a driverless car maneuver the parking lot and finding him really confounds most people.

Here is his comment. In the last few weeks my experience with Full Self Driving in a variety of circumstances has ranged from "Wow, it's really impressive how well the car handled that very complex intersection and blinking yellow left turn arrow" to "Skynet has taken over the car and is actively trying to kill me." It's sphincter-clenching fun!

Conference finances

All work for the Conference is donated by the Committee. We collect a donation determined on Saturday morning based on the attendance and any turned in receipts for materials used for the Conference.

Some years ago when HP was considering selling their Computer Group (which included calculators) we decided to collect the maximum we spent for any Conference when we actually had minimal expenses. HP had often supported the Conference by paying for the Saturday Dinner. One year they rented a bus to take us to the fancy (and expensive) restaurant. HP didn't sell their calculator business and we started a bank account for an expense back up for items not paid for by the donation. Last year we were \$1,000 dollars short.

The HHC USB drive has proven to be very popular and Eric has donated funds from its sale so our treasury is in good shape. We are not in a profit business so the Committee may decide to apply some of those funds for "extras" for this Conference. Of course all things financial is determined by an evaluation of how many people actually attend.

Conclusion

I hope that if you are reading this and you have an interest in calculators that you will consider attending. At one time - in Corvallis, Oregon - we had an attendance of 180 people. The calculator business has changed over the decades – we are even discussing a review of it for HHC 2023. If God is willing and the creek don't rise.

For the HHC Committee,

X < > Y,
Richard