

HHC 2023

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Introduction

HHC 2023 planning and decision making are progressing nicely. All Committee members are doing their share to make the 2023 Conference as successful as the past Conferences have been. The focal point for everyone involved is on the web page – especially the WHO, and Attendees page. David completely maintains the website. The attendance and what is being presented are the key points. Attendance is expected to be higher than last year because our history indicates that Coastal locations draw more. Also we haven't been on the East coast for a very long time. Early indications are that we should exceed our attendance of 32 for last year.

HHC purpose and objectives

The primary purpose of an HHC is to have fun and learn. The weekend schedule is always 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/or Monday and several ideas are being discussed. These will be discussed on the HHC 2023 website as they develop. Ideas mentioned so far are Disney World, an air museum, and perhaps Cape Canaveral which is a 55 mile drive (Monday). We need people to manage these so what is your interest?

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 some of us in our ability to carry on the tradition started in 1979. Bob has talked to an old timer who might join us so the location will have its own draw. The attendance is always the biggest issue for planning. Obviously our attendance is slowly declining. Last year was still impacted by COVID 19. We don't expect any impact this year, and some old timers we haven't seen for a while are planning on attending so we are very optimistic and excited.

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 2023. 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 HHC "list" to keep informed of HHC related activities, announcements, etc. See the bottom of the opening page of the website - <https://hhuc.us/2023/index.htm>

Presentations

The number of presentations are often far greater than what is website listed. This is being written prior to the website being launched. 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) this year for unlisted presentations. Surprises are nice don't you think?

Conference USB drive.

Last year we (especially Eric) gathered calculator files and we nearly filled a 256 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 plan to also 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 2023 USB drive will also be 256 GB because of the space remaining. It is still early and the gathering of HP-15C material is suggested in light of the new HC-15C CE (and other new machines) and we will have to see how it all stacks up.

There is one USB Drive issue that especially came to everyone's attention two years ago. 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 (days?) for your computer to make a copy. Many have tried and many had to give up. The 2023 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

We do take the documentation aspect seriously and I will give a short presentation on this topic. 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. See the past websites for details.

We often have our three Conference meals (two lunches, and sometimes Saturday diner) which are included with the Conference donation. We may take a break this year to “go out” for Saturday dinner.

Conference finances

All work for the Conference is donated by the Committee. We collect a donation usually 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 (\$60) when we actually had minimal expenses. HP had often supported the Conference by paying for the Saturday Dinner. One year they even 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 about \$1,000 dollars short. We expect this year to also have a shortfall.

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 a profit business so the Committee may decide to apply some of those funds for “extras” for this Conference. **Of course all things financial are determined by an evaluation of how many people actually attend.** This year with inflation running rampant, and hotels in Orlando – because of Disney World? - having unusual financial requirements we will probably have to increase the donation fee (perhaps 2/3 higher?)

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. The new HP-15c CE evaluation will touch the hearts of true RPN users. While it is very early, it sure appears that there is no shortage of material for HHC 2023. If God is willing, and the creek doesn't rise, I will see you in Orlando.

For the HHC Committee,

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Richard