

HHC 2021 – A Difficult Year

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Introduction

We skipped HHC 2020 because of COVID-19. We were really concerned about the rapidly changing COVID-19 situation because a medical issue becomes a political issue with various government leaders from Federal to City level. Because the virus is “new” there is little serious research and medical history about it. Even its source is questionable and “unknown.” There seems to be two possibilities and how does the average person determine which argument is correct? The answer is we can’t. We may come to our own conclusions based on our sources and their reputations, but added to the newness and unusual nature of the virus and its variants, we really are still just guessing on a lot of the “facts.”

One example is virus transference from a carrier to a surface to another person. That seems to be of lesser importance these days; not that frequent soap washing your hands isn’t still good advice.

Mask wearing has become a religious issue, and I won’t open that can of lively worms here.

The bottom line is that the HHC Committee discussed holding a Conference for months and waited until the last practical minute to evaluate the situation and “take the plunge.”

The HHC 2021 Website is the result. David Ramsey is doing a great job of carrying on. The website is the most efficient means to manage an HHC Conference.

Conference changes

Aside from COVID-19 being an influence on the Conference there is the obvious situation of not-much-new from HP. I won’t delve into that topic as I covered the subject in my HHC 2019 presentation. Not much has changed and HP continues to sell an old product line with no new products. That is, if you may actually find a place to buy them with many retailers carrying fewer and fewer models if any at all. HP attended last in 2018.

Aside from the above changes the Conference will continue as it always has unless some major COVID related calamity rears its ugly head. The website and the “Conference List”, now a Google Group, is the best places to keep abreast of all activities. The attendees page, <https://hhuc.us/2021/reglist.htm>, is the most useful page for a snapshot of the Conference. As of this writing the weighted number is 29. The Committee planning estimate was an optimistic 35. We have a little more than a full month (September) to go so the numbers may change.

Uncontrolled issues

We have four hopeful attendees from Germany and one from the UK. So far the Federal Government hasn’t lifted its travel ban from most European countries. This is five attendees that are on the list so even 29 at the moment is optimistic. I applaud the Germans for their optimism. One of the COVID-19 issues for foreign travelers is the possibility of being “stranded” because of quarantine requirements. The stories of families and others being separated for very long periods have made the COVID news. This makes reservations complicated and cancellation dates critical.

Conference presentations

As mentioned with the link above the presentations are coming together nicely. I coordinate these and I am in contact with the speakers. It looks like a normal HHC lineup and of course the titles are

traditionally intended to confuse and pique interest.

I won't go into all of them, but I will mention that our best speaker of 2019 is returning with an actual planned presentation. Other presentations are follow-up reports of ongoing projects and still others are announcing new ones. One is especially spectacular.

Speakers must get their presentations down "on paper" on schedule. **DO NOT WAIT UNTIL THE LAST WEEKEND.** See the website for the schedule.

Conference thumb drive

The Conference thumb drive will be double of what it was last year with lots of new material and updates to older data bases. It should have the most HP calculator information found anywhere in one place.

Because of the 128 GB capacity, and the duplication time alone, we must have all materials for the Conference submitted on time. There will be no "last minute" additions. It is just not physically possible.

We tried to duplicate the HHC 2019 thumb drive (64 GB) at our annual December PPC/CHHU meeting and it just wasn't possible/practical for several technical reasons.

Conclusion

HHC 2021 should carry on the HHC tradition in all ways possible. Despite HP's inactivity, and even obstacles like COVID-19, it appears HHC meetings will continue "forever", so please bring your ideas for future meetings, to present in a group discussion. **Of course all HHC activities is up to the attendees/community.**

I, and the Committee, hope to see you in Nashville for HHC 2021.

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Richard