HHC 2023 Report V4

Richard J. Nelson

Introduction

HHC 2023 was exceptional for a long list of reasons. The first was in selecting the location. Stephen Thomas was the point person and he wanted to sponsor HHC 2022 in Orlando, but his personal life did not permit him to dedicate the time required. He was able to do so this year, and he did a superb job going above and beyond. Orlando is a VERY popular tourist destination with Cape Canaveral and Disney World being known worldwide. This situation has required the hotels to have some unusual high costs and policy requirements that the Committee hadn't experienced before. While the Hyatt Hotel had some restrictions contrary to our needs, they made an extra effort to accommodate us. Stephen first compiled a list of hotels and they were compared and a short list made. Bob Prosperi has a home close by and he went down from (New York) and met with Stephen to visit several on the short list. Their results were Committee accepted and we announced.

Probably the next aspect of HHC 2023 that also impacted everybody was the outstanding number of presentations - 30 in total including the three "HP" remotes. In order to make it all happen we decided to just allow everyone 30 minutes, start earlier, and go later for the Conference hours. This worked quite well although the Committee seriously noticed the extra overall effort required with simple exhaustion setting in on getting home. Several days of R&R were required all around. Perhaps age is catching up with us.

Another exceptional aspect this year was the rise in attendance. While we mostly deal with handhelds, the table space each attendee seems to need includes a laptop, AC power, and lots of other items including cameras. The classroom style was set up as ten rows of two tables with two chairs instead of the normal three. This provided a "big" personal space for 40 attendees. In fact we asked for more tables than the hotel had available, but we made do nicely. The 41st attendee sat on the side. Sorry about that.

First timers were Nils Anderson and Mark Powel from Sweden and the UK respectively, and Geoff Granger, Claudia Granger, Jeff Birt, Jason Li, and Deb Elliot. This is great. The non-US attendees made up 17% and we have completely recovered from the COVID -19 restrictions that impacted attendance for HHC 2021 & to some extent HHC 2022. The numbers were: 1-UK, 3-Canada, 2-Germany, 1-Sweden.

Fig. 1 is the HHC 2023 Group Photo taken by Mark Power from the HPCC group in London. We got a high percentage of full faces with this one. Nice!

The schedule for HHC 2023 may be found at: https://hhuc.us/2023/schedule.htm .

Conference videos

Eric Rechlin took the Conference videos and they are linked at the HHC schedule link above. Because of the time and upload schedule limitations these videos are being up loaded to Eric's Youtube channel one per day. He sends the link to David Ramsey who posts it on the website. There may be a day or two for the postings to be updated.

Mark Power from the HPCC made a special effort to record the conference to prepare a review to the HPCC group meeting the following week. This report was also recorded by Eric and all of the videos are listed below for easy access. If you are too early the notice shown in Fig. 2 will be returned. Wait until the presentation of interest is posted and then check it out. Eric should have all videos available as of 7:30pm CST US time on 11/10/2023.

Fig. 1 - HHC 2023 group photo taken outside near the Conference room at the hotel pool – 40 of 41 attendees.

HHC 2023 Review to HPCC - **Mark Power** (56:47)
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KI6Qe7EyKzM

I recommend that you watch Mark's video first because it is a detailed overview of the whole HHC 2023 Conference with details you may miss otherwise. Below are the HHC 2023 presentation video links. Link font size may be reduced for formatting.

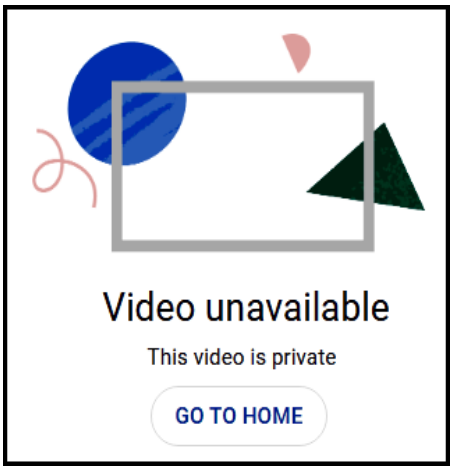

Fig. 2 – Link response if not yet posted.

Saturday

1. **Introductions** - **Richard Nelson, Gene Wright, Bob Prosperi** (49:50)
   https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EJhRgjYNEn4
2. **What's New in the HHC 2023 USB Drive** - **Eric Rechlin** (28:50) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8wXuAIR-sx0
3. **HP Inc Partner Update** - **Mitch Abrams** (37:42)
   https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5CYr9qwXpJM
4. **Royal Partner Update** - **David Joachim** (23:47) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eN2EJdF1LTw
5. **Moravia Partner Update** - **Klaas Kuperus and Radim Frydrych** (30:04)
   https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i9_mBvIKjCE
6. **Recreating the HP 15c Handbooks** - **Eric Rechlin** (25:15) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EgD-EvAIzuk
7. **25 Years of the PPC Archive** - **Jake Schwartz** (19:56) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XQ_wC2Zp0OI
8. **HP Portable Plus DRam ROM Development Module** - **Chuck McCord** (24:11)
   https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=czCiMndATOM
9. **Things the HP-41 Designers Got Wrong** - **Gene Wright** (20:32)https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Hzihd7lBRmg

10. **CC41 Decimated - Craig Bladow** (16:16) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0cMDV9wh3dc

11. **82120D Rechargeable Battery Pack for HP-41C - Sylvain Côté** (11:06) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KY0O4cSkRE8

12. **HP-41 MAXX Project Update - Sylvain Côté** (31:38) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NUkS5u9pgE0

13. **50 Years of Documenting HP Calculators - Richard J. Nelson** (45:53) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CTR7YFYo0uw

14. **HP Prime Environmental Sensing - Mark Power** (30:08) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uLfWcqBqexM

15. **Update on SwissMicros DM32 - Bob Prosperi** (33:46) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Rb_2eqKFh-M

16. **Vintage Computer Repair, Physical and Cosmetic Restoration - Jeff Birt** (39:10) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BSy9AxIQRHs

17. **The Evolution of the Smart Watch, but not THE Smart Watch - Geoff Quickfall** (39:25) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pscAvmsqLI0

18. **Characterizing CCCs - Richard Nelson** (29:26) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9xznLFK-pXg

19. **HPIB Storage Emulation - Chuck McCord** (27:45) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s6_ivFcefgc

Sunday

20. **DIY Calculators Update - Joey Shepard** (25:22) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BYiYUGSROLs

21. **Francis Hookham Collection - Mark Power** (30:16) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G3RfN7Jn8_U

22. **Using Floppy Disks in 2023 - Eric Rechlin** (28:22) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8OLdqJqJ490

23. **A Brief History of Portable Time/Date Functions - Jim Donnelly** (29:25) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pLaGGhZ3jgc

24. **Optimizing the Mandelbrot Set on HP Prime - David Hayden** (19:34) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w80TJk28DRc

25. **HP-91 & 92 Desktop Calculators - Jim Johnson** (17:30) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hVKi9s66uzs

26. **Building a Nixie Tube RPN Calculator - John Doran and Eric Smith** (26:12) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bxEI9n0ks2s

27. **In Praise of the Original TI-30 - Gene Wright** (13:41) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HuKGQMCm1BQ

28. **Python on Prime: A Personal Experience - Günter Schink** (26:06) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-PLt2khyAik

29. **HP-15C Timing Tests - Namir Shammas** (22:13) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QFlmwv4Mw8Y

30. **Plasma Loudspeakers - Brian Walsh** (25:19) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XBXgLoEqNPA

31. **More Voyager Enhancements - Eric Smith** (28:11) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ixsZYtVKiP4

32. **Contest Prize Winners - Richard Nelson and Gene Wright** (10:39) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GLzqXwj0A_o

HHC objectives and purpose

As the opening page of our web site mentions one of the primary HHC objectives is to document HP calculators and the activities of HP users. This also includes the handheld calculator industry as a whole and mentions of SwissMicros, TI, Casio, and Sharp are often included. Here is a list of the various major PPC/HHC documentation projects with a slide from my documentation presentation - #13. These are all on the USB drive. See Fig. 3.

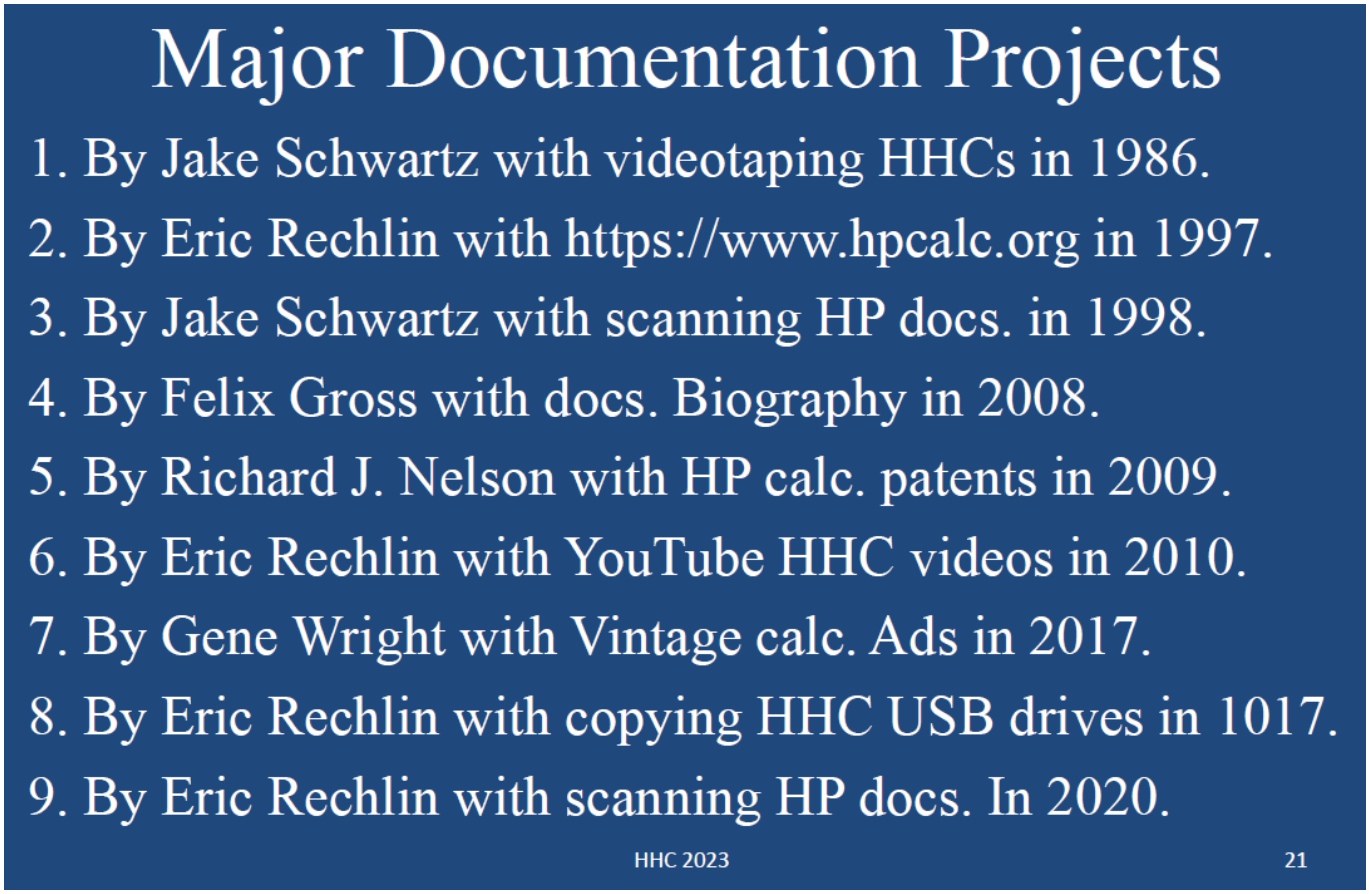

Fig. 3- Documentation Project list with starting date. Most are ongoing and all are on the HHC USB drive.

HHC 2023 USB drive

Eric Rechlin started recording the Conference USB drive (#8 on the list) with the same enthusiasm he has demonstrated with all of the projects he has on the Fig. 3 list. Each year the drive contents increase and it is clear that for HHC 2024 we will need 512 GB to contain all of the documentation that PPC & HHCs have inspired and generated. This is half a Tera Byte! Based on past experience he provides more drives for non-attendees than attendees for a given HHC. This also generates revenue for the HHC kitty.

When we first started with the current USB drive practice there was a debate about the usefulness (and cost) of such a drive. One argument was that the cost wasn't worth the effort because the vast majority of the information was on the internet. I believe that the interest and success of this approach of "providing the most extensive HP calculator information possible in your pocket" is useful. Some of the historical information is no longer found on the internet. Besides, the internet is bloated with so much duplication that navigating it is very time consuming. The HHC USB drive is a significant improvement in efficiency and usefulness. With the latest HHC drive and the website and #9 on the Fig. 3 list you have it all, and with HHUC now also actively contributing it is getting even better and more complete.

There is a technical issue with copying the USB drive. Most PC systems cannot "just make a copy." See my comments on the Introduction to HHC 2023, **page 2** at https://hhuc.us/2023/HHC%202023%20Introduction_s.pdf

Contest winners

Best Speaker: On Sunday afternoon we finish with awards and contest winners. A best speaker vote is taken and this year it was **Mark Power** from the UK. See # 14 & 21. He selected the HP-34 Manual bundle. Best Speaker gets first pick from the normal prize table.

Three contests were held.
1. An **RPL Programming Contest**. Won by **Joey Shepard** who selected a book: Empire of the Sun.
2. **An RPN Programming Contest**. Won by first timer **Jason Li**. He didn't show Bob what he picked.
2. An **HP-41 Expertise Contest**. Won by **Eric Smith** who received a special prize, an HP-41CV with Manuals.

Prizes

Our door prizes are issued by randomly drawing the attendee numbers (by the blue ticket) and were substantial - as has been the case for all of the recent conferences. The drawing is done as the penultimate activity of the Conference. Every attendee had at least four chances to pick from the regular prize table. Since some prizes were "bundles" so you could go home with more than four calculators. I went home with Two TI's, one Casio, and one Calculated Industries.

Premium prizes

We selected eight prizes that are drawn last – see Fig. 7. Every attendee gets an equal chance for these. The Committee picks special prizes to be held as Premium Prizes for their dollar value, historical value, collector's value, or just being the latest model available. SwissMicros was very generous with three new DM machines this year. Here are the premium prizes and their winners.

Premium Prize Winner List

Prize	Winner	Prize	Winner
DM32	Jim Wild	HP-71B & Stand	Scottie Hall
DM41X	Jeff Birt	HP-71B & Stand	Dan McDonald
DM42	Bill Butler	HP-15c CE*	Joe Rigdon
Multimeter AN 8009	Roger Hill	HP-35S Ann Edition	Richard Schwartz

* Donated by Mitch at HP, is serial number 3, the lowest HP Calculator serial number ever gifted to a non-HP employee – thanks Bob.

Fig. 4 – Double table door prizes.

Fig. 5 – Back wall door prizes.

All photos for this report were taken by Jake Schwartz.

Fig. 5 – Prizes at back wall near inside door.

Fig. 6 -Back wall door prizes.

Lessons learned with possible future implementation?

If HHC 2024 follows the path of the last two Conferences we are still very active with the HP User Community carrying on. HP is slowly getting their two licensees up to speed in regards to carrying on the HP Calculator name. Like all things in life major projects seldom happen as fast as expected. From the presentations given the licensees are seriously working to meet the HP standards expected of them and they are also recognizing the various activities of their users. They are working with various community members like HP has in the past for product reviews, manual writing and review, ideas for the future, and being reminded of past promises made.

Fig.7 - Premium prizes, eight total. See list above.

One of our challenges is the schedule with the many aspects of presenter availability, audio/visual aids, and presentation sources. Ideally a simple laptop and the Conference USB Conference drive should suffice. There are some presenters who MUST use their machine. This complicates the cabling and adapter challenges which add additional time between presentations. Over the years the technical aspects seem to get more complex and the result is additional schedule challenges. At least four schedule versions are produced even before printing the schedule at the hotel. There always changes during the Conference and the recorded videos best documents this. Many thanks Eric.

We decided to make every presentation 30 minutes and this really helped with the mechanics. We must have the presentations for the Conference USB drive so presenters need to keep a schedule. The more presenters the more complicated things seem to get.

We gained some time by having one prize drawing cycle with the winner picking two items from the prize table with a single draw.

HHC 2024

We have a standard format for an HHC. While the importance of some aspects of our Conferences have changed over the decades, e.g. we no longer produce printed proceedings or dedicate as much time to reports on “club” activities, we still have a standard sequence of activities.

One of them is the discussion of the location of the next Conference. Our foreign attendees are especially interested because they tend to plan longer in advance that we do. Using our "formula" we are able to provide potential dates for HHC 2024. Here are the planning dates that were discussed. We need several dates to be able to have a desired availability at the selected hotel once a point/host person and location is determined. For HHC 2024 the dates are.

1. 3rd weekend of September 2024. 24th & 25th.
2. 4th weekend of September 2024. 28th & 29th.
3. 3rd weekend of October 2024. 19th & 20th.

We did not have a strong agreement for a 2024 location. Three locations were discussed.

David Ramsey could host HHC 2024 in Reno NV. HHC 2014 & 2019 were in Reno.
Gene Wright could host in Nashville TN. HHC 2012, 2015, 2017, 2021, & 2022 were in Nashville.
Namir Shammas could host in Richmond VA for the first time.

A decade ago we would have a very good idea of where the Conference would be held while discussing the subject at a current HHC. In the last few years everything seems to be in a greater state of flux and the actual location is not as we might have been predicted.

Communicating with interested HHC attendees

The two most important aspects for HHCers are being on the Conference email list and monitoring the HHC website. Usually the website for a given year becomes active when a hotel is selected and a contract is signed. HHC List activity is most active the month before and after a Conference. See https://hhuc.us and select a recent year and you will find a link with information on how to join the HHC list at the bottom of the opening page.

A few conference photos (Jake Schwartz)

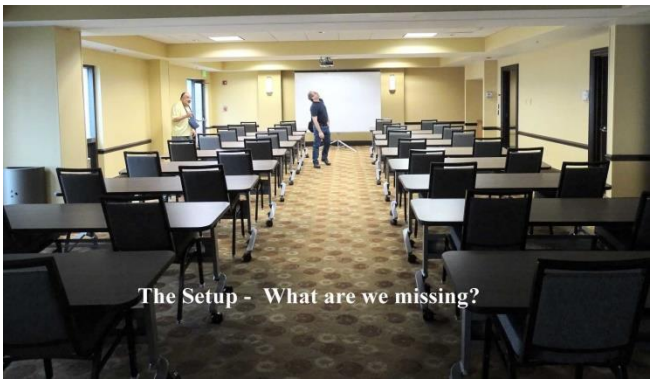

Fig. 8 – Getting set up on Friday.

Fig. 9 – Getting started, all seats taken – great!

These photos will provide an overview of the Conference. The back of the room was used for registration, door prizes, and food delivery.

We provided some power cords for the tables and the hotel provided what they could. We had our own sound system seen in Fig. 9 front and center. Those behind the speaker didn't hear as well. We should consider buying our own system which would help better manage three different microphones.

The Conference was enjoyed by all and first time attendees all seem to say something along the lines – Everyone is so friendly, and I don't know why I haven't been to an HHC sooner.

Fig. 10 – Bob Prosperi delivers RCL 20 & RCL 40 books.

Fig. 11 - HPCCs Mark Power taking group photo.

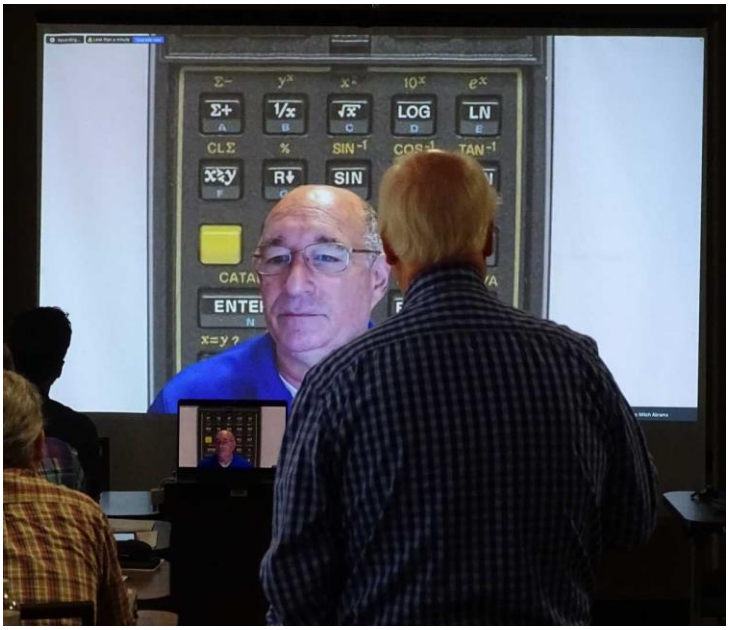

Fig. 12 – CVD Retired Jim Donnelly asks HP a question

Fig. 13 – Jim Johnson "Adjusting" a calculator.

Fig. 14 Pizza for Sunday on lunch.

Fig. 15 – Royal (by remote) briefing the group.

HHC 2023 finances.

We carried a balance of $4,316.44 from 2022.
We collected $100 from 41 attendees for $4,100 for 2023.
The hotel, food, and supply 2023 costs were $3,662.70. The 2023 income is 437.30.
The current balance is $4,753.74 carried for HHC 2024.

Observations and conclusion

An HHC is an opportunity to meet and learn from many of the most active members of the HP User Community. These include consultants to HP – now to Moravia -, book authors, accessory designers, and over all experts in electronics, mathematics, programming, the user interface, and analysts of the calculator market and user interests.

As we learned from the active managers in the new HP calculator licensee business it has taken longer than expected for each player to get up to speed in meeting HPs standards for all aspects of the calculator market. I suspect that next year we will see greater improvements in getting the new system running smoothly.

Clearly the HP calculator websites need additions and improvement, but we expect this to happen as each entity learns its part in getting HP calculators to the world. HHC 2023 attendees were encouraged and inspired by the three remote presentations.

For the HHC 2023 Committee,

X < > Y,
Richard J. Nelson