

HHC2024 Report V2

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Introduction

HHC 2024 had one less attendee than last year with 40 attendees. It was another typical and successful conference of intense information sharing and fun. We followed a standard Conference format of:

- Registration,
- Introductions,
- Group photo,
- presentations (in person and remote),
- Contests,
- Awards,
- Door prizes, and
- Open forum for community issues, and thoughts for the next HHC for over two decades.

Gene Wright handled the hotel selection, local coordination, and food. COVID provided an excuse for businesses to implement changes that they had hesitated doing prior to COVID. As I mentioned in my HHC 2023 Report the changes impact on the hotel industry has been significant. We have unusual requirements of extended meeting room hours, and our own food and snacks in the meeting room.



Fig. 1 – Group photo of all 2024 attendees in Nashville, Tennessee

- | | | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Gary J. Carter | 11. Bob Prosperi | 21. Thomas Chrapkiewicz | 31. Jeff Turner |
| 2. Kimberly Thompson | 12. Eric Smith | 22. Mary Boetcher | 32. David Hayden |
| 3. Roger Hill | 13. Andrew Gwozdz | 23. Craig Bladow | 33. Scottie Hall |
| 4. Gene Wright | 14. Jim Johnson | 24. Eric Rechlin | 34. Devin Michel |
| 5. Bill Butler | 15. Deb Elliot | 25. Jim Wild | 35. Jason Li |
| 6. Juan Chilla | 16. Jeffrey Birt | 26. Gunter Schink | 36. Joey Sheppard |
| 7. Alan Striegel | 17. David Ramsey | 27. Geoff Quickfall | 37. Christopher Brame |
| 8. Kuba Tatarkiewicz* | 18. Richard J. Nelson | 28. Sylvain Cote | 38. Edward Shore |
| 9. John Doran | 19. Namir Shammass | 29. Jake Schwartz | 39. Richard Schwartz |
| 10. Brad Barton | 20. Felix Gross | 30. Brian Walsh | 40. Chuck McCord |

** First time attendee and best Speaker.*

Hotel meetings and conferences are usually business activities which are less sensitive to the costs involved. We have always had costs as a priority with attendee donations to be kept as low as possible. This year it was the highest of \$120. See the details in the Finances section.

After checking the previously used hotels Gene found a new Nashville hotel that was being built, and finished by Conference time, so they had a greater interest in accommodating us. We used the Courtyard Marriott Smyrna hotel. Everything worked out just fine with the new trendy hotel design/systems, e.g. included unusual breakfast arrangements, meeting room, AV system, etc. See additional details in the finance section. Fig. 2 shows a group of attendees at breakfast.

Attendance

We had seven (17.5%) first time attendees:

1. Christopher Brame from CA,
2. Gary Carter from TX,
3. Juan Chilla from CA,
4. Andrew Gwoztz from MA,
5. Devin Michel from OH,
6. Alan Striegel from OH, and
7. Kuba Tatarzewicz from CA.

Of note is that Kuba also gave a presentation and won the best speaker award.



Fig. 2 – Here is a group of attendees enjoying the included breakfast. Photo by Bob Prospero.

We had five non-US attendees (12.5%): three from Canada, and two from Germany. Canadian old timer Geoff Quickfall (Fig. 2) is speaking. Geoff is a retired commercial pilot and world traveler with lots of shared stories and experiences. He has also promised his gigantic long awaited book on Restoration of HP Calculators soon – by the end of the year? This will have extensive photos. See his presentation as #10 on the video link list.

In terms of the website registrations <https://hhuc.us/2024/reglist.htm> we had four additional people registered, but were unable to attend. Also note that the website has now been adjusted to show the actual Conference attendance.

Presentations

We had a total of 19 presentations. Two were remote. See the schedule on the HHC website for the details. <https://hhuc.us/2024/schedule.htm>

I scheduled 45 minutes for each presentation. Last year we had many more presentations and each one was limited to 30 minutes. This fixed time slot approach makes it much easier to schedule, and make last minute swapping of the presentations. The approach of accepting all presentations and adding additional ones “on the fly” is another operational guideline that we follow for HHCs.

Presentation videos

Eric Rechlin video recorded the presentations. Below are the links to each presentation on YouTube. Personal observation: these links also include YouTube ads (new?). You may also view these on Eric’s hpcalc.org site (see link at the end of the list on the next page) which has the ads switched off. Link font size may be reduced for formatting purposes.

1. One Million HHC Files - Eric Rechlin (38:48) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JX3UMtgB2_U
2. HP 15c CE Current and Future Developments - José González Divassón (15:35) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OCvn27P_T8
3. Forgotten Father of the Computer - Jeff Birt (37:32) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s3B-69e6I18>
4. What's New in the PPC Archive - Jake Schwartz (24:38) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mSVeyWD4Bbw>

5. Introducing TULIP4041 - Sylvain Côté (30:30) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4WwZMoBORPY>
6. Texas Instruments Mid-Range Classic Calculators - Gene Wright (34:52) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZCSDSJW7SMA>
7. Sharp PC-1300 Pocket Computer - Geoff Quickfall (48:17) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C3hfBp1Zovs>
8. ZVC Replica - Sylvain Côté (41:48) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U_30Fo9RJj4
9. Testing RNGs or How PPC Changed My Life - Kuba Tatarkiewicz (29:29) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vSDfqCK-ENk>
10. HP-65 Restoration Chapter 1 and Trivia - Geoff Quickfall (50:27) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C-NjqC19n4>
11. C++ For Fun and Profit (pick one) - Eric Smith (25:02) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vpvVLd8QhyU>
12. Calculator Bibliography Progress Report - Felix Gross (34:17) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MbeBobennNE>
13. Update on SwissMicros' Product Line - Bob Prosperi (58:03) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ADUmQ5LX8gU>
14. History of an Unknown HP Consulting Group - Richard Nelson (36:19) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FQ6IgpJCV7U>
15. And Polynomials Begat Polyterms - Namir Shammass (26:57) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nGXjBfEkF84>
16. It Escaped from the Lab - Part I - Eric Smith (13:44) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cZ2D3AYIV5E>
17. It Escaped from the Lab - Part II - Eric Smith (12:55) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UMH4ZOt_J3o
18. It Escaped from the Lab - Part III - John Doran and Eric Smith (29:58) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LDsBkDy2w1k>
19. Woodstock Rechargeable LiPo Battery - Jim Johnson (21:42) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eAIBWJufjX4>
20. Contest Prize Winners - Gene Wright and Richard Nelson (14:27) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3UIECBqwnnI>

Here is a link to Eric's YouTube channel which has the videos listed with additional details. The previous videos of HHCs back to 2011 are also listed. <https://www.youtube.com/@hpcalc/videos>

Eric visited Europe and attended two meetings and video recorded them. He has included the Allschwil 2022 (a Village in Switzerland) and HPCC 2022 (London UK) presentations on his YouTube channel.

Because of the sensitivity of some people the HHC 2024 information and introductions are not listed on YouTube. Here is a link to them. <https://videos.hpcalc.org>

Contests and awards

This part of the Conference also has its video. Watch #20 above. There were three programming contests. See Table 1.

Table 1 – Programming Contest Winners

Contest	Winner	Prize Chosen	Notes
RPN Basic	David Hayden	USB Speaker	
RPN Float	Juan Chilla	HP-48 Kit	Tie
RPN Float	Roger Hill	3D Printed Model	Tie
RPL	Jason Li	DM41L	

As I noted in the # 20 video I have never been able to guess who the Best Speaker would be. Bob and I sorted the votes and there was a very clear winner. Based on the two stacks of the votes it was a tie between Kuba Tatarkiewicz and “The Polish Guy” (who are actually the same person). The winner took the HHC 2024 T-Shirt from the prize table.

Finances

40 people attended, but Gene didn't pay his donation to Bob at registration because of the double transfer

of the Conference monies. Thus the money Bob collected was \$4680.00. Below are the expenditures Gene made for the Conference.

Table 2 – HHC 2024 Expenses.

Staples	Presentation clicker	\$54.86
Walmart	Snacks	\$581.53
Whits BBQ	Lunch - Saturday	\$642.92
Cheddars	Lunch - Sunday	\$666.62
Hotel Meeting Room		\$1,800.00
Less Gene's conference fee		-\$120.00
Total due to Gene		\$3,625.93

Subtracting Gene’s expenses leaves \$1054.07. Bob gave me \$1,060.00 which I deposited into the HHC donated money buffer account. **This brought the total available for HHC 2025 to: \$5,813.63.** This Wells Fargo account is available to Richard and Gene.

Prizes

Door Prizes were donated by HP, SwissMicros, the HHC Committee, and attending (also non-attending) members. A few (8 to 12 door prizes) are selected out by the Committee as being more valuable, rare, unusual, or very special, to be identified as Premium prizes. All award winners and attendees select from the normal prize table. Every attendee gets a chance for the premium prizes in the final drawing.

We had a special drawing for a large batch of HP donated items – no calculators. Every attendee received at least one of these.



Fig. 3 - Large HP drinking cup.

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” you could go home with more than four “new” calculators.

The special batch of items donated by HP had an item that caught my attention. It was a very large steel (presumed to be made like a thermos bottle) drinking cup. Living in the dry desert means keeping hydrated is important. I am always looking to reduce my refill trips. Fig. 3 compares the HP cup with what I am current using. The HP cup seems just too large for easy handling with only a 4 ounce gain.

See Figures 4 through 12.

Premium prizes

We selected twelve prizes that are drawn last – see Fig. 11. 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 their new DM machines this year. See Table 3 on page 6 for the premium prizes and their winners.



Fig. 4 – A portion of the door prize table.

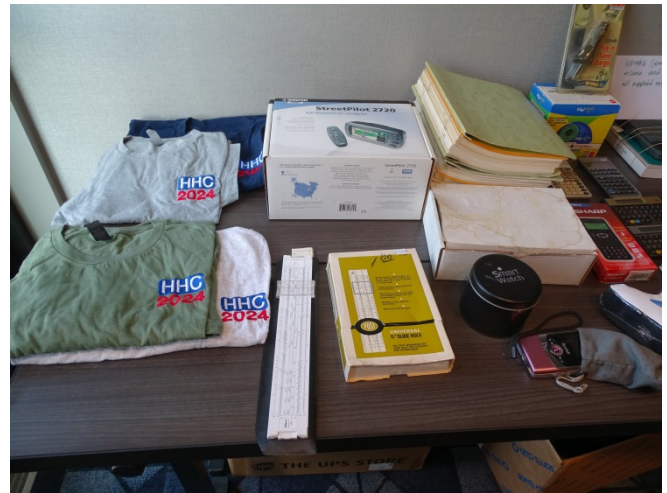


Fig. 5 – Door prize table with a closer view.



Fig. 6 – More door prizes.

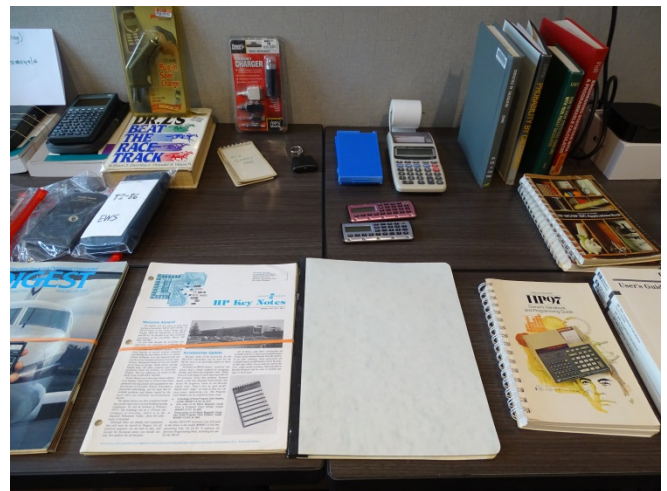


Fig. 7 – Still more door prizes.

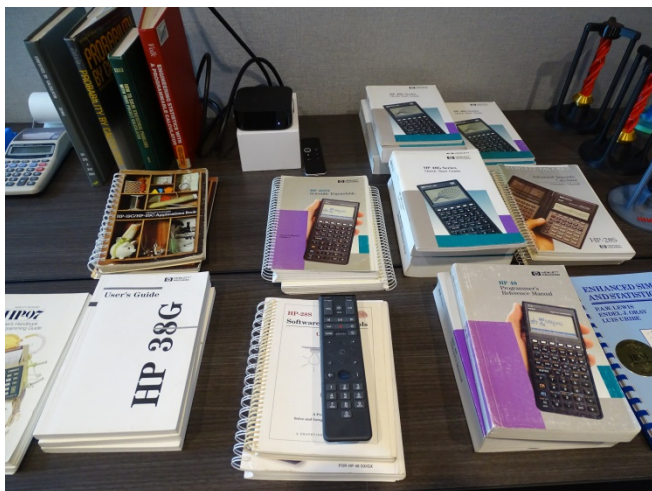


Fig. 8 – Still more door prizes.



Fig. 9 – Still even more door prizes. The plastic stands are 3D printed illusion devices from David Ramsey.



Fig. 10 – Still more door prizes.



Fig. 11 – Twelve Premium door prizes.

Table 3 – Premium Prize Winners

Prize	Winner	Prize	Winner
DM42n	Brad Barton	HP Robot	Scottie Hall
HP-75C	Christopher Brame	Tandy 301 Exp. Kit	Richard J. Nelson
DM32	Sylvain Cote	DM41X	Gunter Schink
PX41CX	John Doran	DM42	Jake Schwartz
HP Tablet	Andrew Gwozdz	ThinkPad	Jeff Turner
HP Robot	Jim Wild	41MAXX	Gene Wright

HHC 2025

The possible weekend dates for HHC 2025 are:

- 4th weekend September 27 & 28,
- 2nd weekend October 11 & 12, and
- 3rd weekend October 18 & 19.

Several dates are required in case the selected location hotel is booked.

The locations to be investigated are:

- Reno, Nevada (David Ramsey)
- Nashville, Tennessee (Gene Wright)
- Chicago, Illinois (Brian Walsh)
- Orlando, Florida (Stephen Thomas)

We usually wait until into the New Year to get really serious to start the search process, and get the hotels costs. There are many considerations (including the total costs involved)

Prepared for the HHC 2024 Committee,
Richard J. Nelson

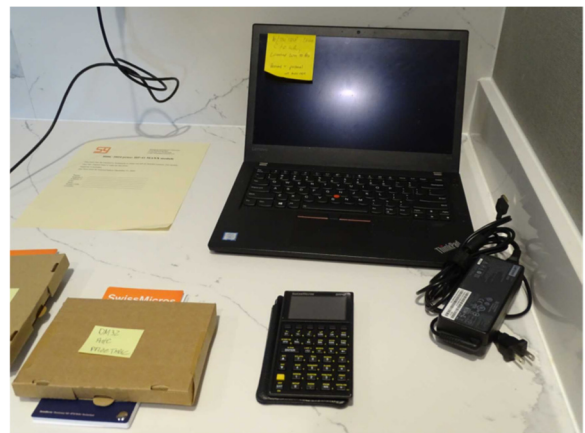


Fig. 12 – Remaining Premium door prizes.