HHC 2003 Committee HP Calc "Bio" Info

How much experience does the HHC 2003 Committee have with HP Calculators/handhelds? Who are these people, and what are their interests? In order to find out we made a list of questions among ourselves for us all to answer. Here are the questions and answers from each member along with their major area of expertise used while serving on the committee. Each one of us has been active in the HP User Community, HPUC, for two decades or more. Among the seven-committee members, we are two years shy of two centuries of HP calculator experience. Among us, we own every calculator since the HP Advanced Products Division first started producing handheld calculators in 1972 with the first shirt pocket scientific calculator ever manufactured, the HP-35A. Many machines that were not released are also part of the Committees' legacy.

1. Gary Friedman - Photographer   *(26)*

1. What year (and month?) did you become involved with HP Calculators?   1977.

2. What was the model that got you started? My father brought home an HP 25 (non-"C" version) from the Northrop loan pool. I was taking high school physics and chemistry at the time and RPN was a godsend!! (or perhaps a "BillAndDaveSend"). The 25 got stolen and Northrop (probably not realizing it was being used by a high school student) replaced it with a 25C - very expensive for those days! My friends all loved playing the "lunar landing simulator" game and draining the rechargeable batteries.

3. What is your favorite model?
     HP 41. It was awarded to me as a "First Prize" at a UCLA Electronic Design competition shortly after it was introduced. Dave Strand from the local HP office had donated it to the contest. The extensive way I used it, in both programming (including synthetics) and hardware interfacing has been well documented. :-)

4. What models do you now have that are still operational?
     3 HP 41's, HP 71, HP 32S II, HP 16C, HP 48SX, 48 GX, 49, HP 67 (giving that away as a prize) HP 27 (giving that away as a prize), TI 59 (Oh, and that doesn't count??), Bowmar Brain (giving that away as a prize), 110 (laptop), and of course an OfficeJet G85. :-)

5. Which HP calcs did you ONCE own and use, and wish you hadn't gotten rid of?
     HP 25C. See one of my previous stories.

6. How often/much do you use your machine today?
     Rarely.

7. Do you do much programming?
     Almost never. (Quite a change!!)

8. If you could receive, as a gift, any HP calculator/handheld that you don't have, which model would it be?
     Probably the HP-01 for no particular reason.

9. What calculator/handheld articles, books, manuals, or publications have you authored?
     BOOK; Control the World with HP-IL, a commercial book explaining the protocol of the Hewlett

Packard Interface Loop and examples of how to interface HP handheld computers to the outside world. Emphasis on automated control applications. (Sole author; 326 pp; ISBN 0-9612174-9-9) OTHER PUBLICATIONS: "HP82165A HP-IL/GPIO Interface Overview and Control Applications", PPC Journal, August 1983, pp. 21-25; "The Data Egg: A New Solution to Text Entry Barriers", paper delivered to Hewlett Packard User's conference, Corvallis, OR August, 1991. (Also appeared in NASA Tech Briefs magazine); "HP-41-Based Telephone Answering Machine Utilizing Speech Synthesis and Touch Tone Decoding", PPC Journal, July & August 1984, pp. 23-28, 6-10; "Positive Handshake on the IL Converter", PPC Journal, August 1984, p. 37; "Inexpensive I/O using the Time Module", PPC Journal, September 1984; "A Slide Projector Dissolve Unit", CHHU Chronicle, November 1985, pp. 24-31; "An Electronic Tape Measure" (Measuring distances by acoustic ranging), HP-X, July 1988, pp. 4-7.

10. What HP products have you beta tested in the past?
    HA!!

2. *Joseph K Horn - Webmaster* (25)

1. What year (and month?) did you become involved with HP Calculators? September 29, 1976.

2. What was the model that got you started?
    HP-25A, given to me on that day by my brother Jim, along with a 1-year gift membership in the HP-65 User's Club.

3. What is your favorite model?
    49G, soon to be the 49G+.

4. What models do you now have that are still operational?
15C, 16C, 21S, 32SII, 39G, 41CX, 48SX (several), 48G, 48GX, 49G (several), 65, 71B, 75C, 200LX.

5. Which HP calcs did you ONCE own and use, and wish you hadn't gotten rid of?
    "It still brings a tear to my eyes that the following got stolen, destroyed, or given away: 11C, 15C, 16C, 19BII, 21S, 25A, 28C, 28S, 34C, 42S, 71B, 85(!)"

6. How often/much do you use your machine today?
    Very/too.

7. Do you do much programming?
    Yes.

8. If you could receive, as a gift, any HP calculator/handheld that you don't have, which model would it be?
    "Wished to have and never did: the HP-19C, sorta like an HP-25 with printer built in. Oooh, how I wanted one of those!"

9. What calculator/handheld articles, books, manuals, or publications have you authored?
    Book: HP-71 BASIC Made Easy. *rjn-Plus many articles in the UK Datafile, PPC Journal, Programming class handouts, and the CHHU Chronicle. Add to this the Goodies Discs, and many helpful postings on the Newsgroup.*

10. What HP products have you beta tested in the past?
    Sorry, I can't answer that.

3. Wlodek Mier-Jedrzejowicz - Coordinator for attendees from Europe. (31)

1. What year (and month?) did you become involved with HP Calculators?
    Involved, as in "interested in" would be about May 1972, when the Spectroscopy lecturers at my college got very excited about the HP-35 that their friends were getting in the US, and told us (the students) about it. Involved as in "owning" was not till about February 1978 when I purchased a second hand HP-25.

2. What was the model that got you started?
    The HP-35 - I could not afford one, but a few were available, on security stands, for Physics students to use in lab classes.

3. What is your favorite model?
    Must be the HP-41CX - still the calculator I first think of when looking at a problem - even if I usually pick up a 49G to actually work on the problem...

4. What models do you now have that are still operational?
    Um - all of them? I tried to get one of each when I was writing my "Guide to HP Handhelds". Though obviously I can't use them all at the same time - most are stored in boxes and occasionally taken out to try, or to check a point for a book or article.
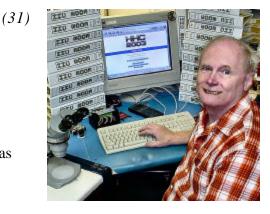
5. Which HP calcs did you ONCE own and use, and wish you hadn't gotten rid of?
    Get rid of an HP calc??? I've never been that desperate ;-)

6. How often/much do you use your machine today?
    I use an HP Jornada 928 WDA (Wireless Digital Assistant - combined mobile phone and PDA) all the time, mostly the mobile phone though. But it's not really mine, just on loan. I use my HP49G a few minutes every day, and seriously maybe once a fortnight. My HP200LX does not have a mobile phone but does have my databases and a nice built-in calculator - I use the 200LX about 10 minutes a day.

7. Do you do much programming?
    Less and less programming, unfortunately. Maybe one HP49G program a month.

8. If you could receive, as a gift, any HP calculator/handheld that you don't have, which model would it be?
    The one HP calculator I do not have that I would really like to get is the HP38G+ - but only a very few were made. The HP handheld I would most like to get is an HP728.

9. What calculator/handheld articles, books, manuals, or publications have you authored?
    One HP manual - for the HP41CV Emulator card for the HP48SX. Part of the manual for a third-party HP-41 accessory - the Eramco plug-in database unit, rather like an MLDL. Four books about HP calculators and handhelds. Submitted papers for HHC Conference Proceedings. Co-edited RCL 20, authored several of the articles in it. About 400 articles, mostly in Datafile, some in the PPC Journal and the CHHU Chronicle.

10. What HP products have you beta tested in the past?

I Beta tested HP32SII (called the HP32S+ at the time), and HP49G. Had several others just to look at and comment on a few weeks before release, such as the HP28C, HP48SX and HP38G.

4. Richard J. Nelson - Schedule and Speakers.   *(31)*

1. What year (and month?) did you become involved with HP Calculators?   June 1972.

2. What was the model that got you started?
    HP-35A, announced in January, it took a while to get one.

3. What is your favorite model?
    HP48GX, then the HP49G when the keyboard is as reliable as the HP48.

4. What models do you now have that are still operational?
    All High End Scientifics including HP-71B & HP-75CX, all Pioneer Series, most finance models, Xpander, Jornada X25, all 10 (Voyager) Series, HP-01, all Nut series, assorted others.

5. Which HP calcs did you ONCE own and use, and wish you hadn't gotten rid of?
    HP-19C, the printer was nice.

6. How often/much do you use your machine today?
    A least half an hour every day. Conversions and basic calculations are done most.

7. Do you do much programming?
    I write programs for work and for recreation. When I am working on a recreation problem I program during snippets of spare time and the average time doubles or triples, especially when I am documenting the programs.

8. If you could receive, as a gift, any HP calculator/handheld that you don't have, which model would it be?
    An HP97S or a never produced HP-95C. I have the manuals for the latter.

9. What calculator/handheld articles, books, manuals, or publications have you authored?
    I have probably written, edited, and published as much material on HP calculators as anybody. This includes 5,200 pages (at over 2,000 words per page, the PPC Journals & CHHU Chronicle pages are 2,200 w/p) on PPC CD's (Thanks Jake), numerous articles in HPCC's Datafile, HHC Conference proceedings, contributor to RCL 20, PPC ROM Manual (along with hundreds of other contributors), eight articles in industry trade magazines, EduCALC Technical Notes, HP48 Programming Class Notes over four years, articles in HP's Key Note, and several papers in WESCON calculators' sessions.

    The acronym PPC has many meanings. One was defined in my paper, "The Role of PPC's in Computerland", in the *NCC '78 Personal Computing Digest*. I used the acronym at that time as Personal Programmable Calculator. It was later that *the* **PPC** was called the Personal Programming Center. At least 25 meanings have been attached to PPC over the years; other examples are Personal Programmables from Corvallis, and People Programming Calculators. Of course, we were also confused with other organizations such as the Professional Photographers of California.

10. What HP products have you beta tested in the past?
    HP-67, HP-41C, HP41 Barcode Wand and barcode reproduction, HP75C and IL peripherals, HP-28S, HP48SX, HP-48GX, HP49G.

5. Jake Schwartz - Videographer.   *(32)*

1. What year (and month?) did you become involved with HP Calculators?   Sept. 1971.
   When on a co-op job with RCA in Camden, NJ, I saw the HP9810 for the first time and was hooked.

2. What was the model that got you started?
   HP35A

3. What is your favorite model?
   HP41C - its announcement was the point when all activity increased at such a high rate that the Philly group changed meetings from quarterly to monthly and, I believe, the Orange County group changed from monthly to weekly. I don't believe that such an exciting time has repeated since.

4. What models do you now have that are still operational?
   35, 80, 34C, 16C, 41C, 41CX, 71B, 75C, 10B, 10B-II, 14B, 17B, 20S, 21S, 22S, 32S-II, 42S, 38G, 39G, 40G, 48SX, 48GX, 49G, 6S, 6S Solar, 9S, 9G, 30S.

5. Which HP calcs did you ONCE own and use, and wish you hadn't gotten rid of?
   HP65, HP67, HP25A, HP31E, HP32S, HP28C and HP28S.

6. How often/much do you use your machine today?
   Around a half hour a day - usually the emu48/49 HP48/49 emulator running in the iPAQ h1910. Base conversions, mostly.

7. Do you do much programming?
   My day job is programming on HP Unix boxes. Not much programming on calcs, lately, except relatively short keystroke programs.

8. If you could receive, as a gift, any HP calculator/handheld that you don't have, which model would it be?
   HP10C or HP27S.

9. What calculator/handheld articles, books, manuals or publications have you authored?
   A few dozen articles in PPC Journal, CHHU Chronicle and HPX Exchange, edited the Peripheral Routines documentation (61 pages) in the PPC ROM manual, many papers in the HP calculator conference proceedings (1979-2002), contributor to *RCL20*, wrote the HP41 Port-X-Tender user manual, wrote the user manual for the HP16C Emulator Library for the HP48.

10. What HP products have you beta tested in the past?
    HP41 Barcode Wand, HP41 Plotter Module, HP75C, HP48 PDL software, HP49G

1. What year (and month?) did you become involved with HP
   Calculators?   1976
   My original interest was optical ray tracing.   I evaluated and
   rejected an HP-35 because of the loss in significant digits in the trig
   functions for small angles.   The HP-45 fixed this, so I got one... but
   I was too busy to indulge in optics. But I still was not "involved"
   until I took a job in Anaheim in 1976 and was near the PPC center
   of activity.

2. What was the model that got you started?
   I had already done some programming, but in those days computers were sequestered by
   management and accessible only by the elite for payroll, inventory, and accounting tasks... until I
   got my HP-97.   That opened a whole new world of possibilities, and exploiting those possibilities
   soon overshadowed the optics. (At the time my desk was outside the door to an optics shop, but
   my boss ordered me not to go in there or even to speak with anybody who worked in there.)

   It was not just the machine that got me started (at one time my main machine was a TI-59). It was
   the people. And the stuffing parties. And the ROM project. And I became addicted to
   supercooled pepsi in glass bottles and other neighborhood attractions like the Vietnamese
   restaurant where a gorgeous Viet girl would greet you, "How about it, soldier boy, only four
   dollars (for dinner)". And, I was with my kind of people, the nocturnal cyberphiliacs.

3. What is your favorite model?
   My favorite model is the Palm Tungsten. All though it is not without its faults, it has more
   capability and less restrictions than the current HP machines.   It is easily field-programmed in
   EXCEL subset, BASIC, FORTH, or several other languages, without need for a supporting desk
   machine.

4. What models do you now have that are still operational?
   I still have a '48, a '49, a '10, and an iPAQ pocket PC (what's that good for? Except for Excel, you
   can't program it. Web pages are too wide to be displayed on its screen.) I have some older
   machines that I will give away at the conference if anybody wants them.   I don't use any of my
   HP machines; the Palm is now my main machine.

6. How often do I use my machine?
   I seldom if ever use my HP calculators.   The Palm does so much for me that it is with me
   ALWAYS. I take it out several times every day.   I have a second unit in case I have to do
   anything in forth (due to frequent crashes). HP, are you listening?

7. Do I do much programming?
   Not much traditional programming any more. The last traditional program I did was a search to
   find out if the permutations (2 3 4 5 6 7 1) and (3 4)(5 6)(7 8) generate the entire permutation
   group S8.   I did this in basic, and it took all night to find a sequence of twenty three of those that
   would generate the permutation (7 8). With that permutation, it is obvious that you can get 'em
   all. (that was for my son's UCI Master's Thesis). I am digging deeper into Excel these days. It
   is too bad the pocket versions do not have the "paste special/value" command, and it is too bad
   they don't support macros. I'm interested in the timing of stock market trades. I think I can use
   the stock market to predict random numbers!

8. Which HP model would I like as a gift?
   There is only one, it has to be the '01. Although a '28 would be nice. I miss the one I stomped in the security incident at work. Why did Casio discontinue the scientific calculator watch?

9. Calculator publications?
   Nope, my few papers are related to optics. See my web page, it empowers you to do precision optics in your garage. The URL is too long and boring to mention here.

10. Wish list
    How about a watch that includes a meaningful scientific RPN calculator, along with the data bank, timer, and stopwatch features of the better watches? It would include a WWV or GPS receiver so that it is always in PERFECT time. While we are at it, throw in a magnetic compass, an altimeter, a light meter (for photography) and a geiger counter. With IR and blue tooth, of course. Oh, yeah, the whole thing should be solar powered and it should have a non-Casio band that is comfortable, non-metallic, and won't break. Digital camera is optional. A large fat case is OK; I'm not talking about a "ladies" watch! That should be easy with today's technology; Casio is still coasting with the stuff from 15 years ago. HP, are you listening? Only you can do it. Cost is no problem; your devoted users are older and more affluent now.

7. David Shier - Registration.   *(26)*

1. What year (and month?) did you become involved with HP Calculators?   1977
   I became involved with HP calculators in 1977 - don't remember the month (and yes, I know I'm the newbee.)

2. What was the model that got you started?
   The first one I got was an HP 34C. It had that great "solve for zero" feature.

3. What is your favorite model?
   As a calculator, it would have to be the 41C. As an HP handheld in general, it would certainly be the HP 200LX. I know people that still use the 200LX as their primary handheld - plus it included the calculator from the 19B but with the added feature of the calculator being able to be used together with Lotus 1-2-3!

4. What models do you now have that are still operational?
   The HP 34C was stolen. One of these days I'd like to replace it. Otherwise, I have: 41C, 48SX, 48GX, 49G, 16C, 71B, 75CX; Palmtops: 95LX, 100LX, 200LX; Jornada's: 360, 620, 720, 820; finally an HP iPAQ 5450. (Yes, I know this last one is REALLY a Compaq, but it says HP on it and it is a handheld!)

5) Which HP calcs did you ONCE own and use, and wish you hadn't gotten rid of?
   I have never gotten rid of any of my HP handhelds, although I miss the 34C that was stolen. Perhaps I'll replace it someday.

6) How often/much do you use your machine today?
   Today my main machine is the iPAQ 5450 which I use daily. I have a couple of calculator programs on it; of course, both are set to RPN mode.

7) Do you do much programming?
   I rarely have a need to do any calculator programming any more. For my consulting business I

often write programs or architect larger programming projects for others to work on.

8) If you could receive, as a gift, any HP calculator/handheld that you don't have, which model would it be?

The HP-01 calculator watch.

9) What calculator/handheld articles, books, manuals, or publications have you authored?

More articles than I can count. I was a regular contributor to the HP Palmtop Paper, a magazine dedicated to the HP 95/100/200LX, and I'm currently the Wireless Technology Editor for Pocket PC Magazine. I also authored the manuals for a few software products for the HP LX palmtops including the CompuServe automation program: acCIS. Finally, as the Managing Editor for www.BluetoothNews.com I regularly write articles for the site. I haven't authored any books yet, but I'm working on one about Bluetooth technology.

10) What HP products have you beta tested in the past?

A few HP handhelds, computers, and Pocket PCs. I've also tested some palmtop and Pocket PC software from HP. Some of these products unfortunately were cancelled.