HHC 2010

HHC 2010 is being held in Ft. Collins again this year. We held HHC 2009 in Ft. Collins because HP moved its Calculator Group from San Diego to Ft. Collins and we wanted to meet the new people involved. Another reason to be in Ft. Collins is the down economy. We wanted as many HP people to attend as possible and not having them needing to travel enhanced that objective.

This year the economy is still uncertain and saving the cost of paying for the Conference meeting room by HP hosting the conference keeps our costs down. This has been the case for HHC 2008 (HP Corvallis), and HHC 2007 (HP San Diego). Many HHC attendees expressed a desire to hold the Conference in Las Vegas – our last Conference in Las Vegas was in 1983. The HHC Committee investigated several facilities in Las Vegas and it has become apparent that Las Vegas has become more than a Casino town.

An increasing number of conferences are being held in "Vegas," but these are usually professionally oriented and all costs related to conference room rental, hotel room rental, and food have seriously increased in cost over the last few years. The hotel room rate increases are surprising because many thousands of new hotel rooms have been added this year. I go to Vegas for five days every year for CES in January so I have some annual personal experience in witnessing these changes. Even the food, which has traditionally been very competitively priced and of good quality has "degraded."

After considering all the factors, including the undesirability of having a two leg journey (one hour shuttle ride and cost from Denver to/from Ft. Collins) we decided that Ft. Collins best met all of our criteria for HHC 2010. There have been changes at HP as well and now that we are known to many of the new HP staff we can expect more of them to "drop by" and perhaps even attend the Conference.

When I sent an update to the HHC Conference List a few days ago Eric Smith sent the following.
If you are not signed up on the HHC List you may do so at:

http://lists.brouhaha.com/mailman/listinfo/hhc

"> and HHC 2010 is essentially a repeat of HHC 2009.

Maybe not the best selling point? :-)"

This sure points out my "difficulty" of language in communicating. I can't remember of any bad experiences that someone would not want repeated, but what I meant was that the hotel is the same and HP hosting the Conference with the facilities etc. is the same. In fact, all of the really great features of the Conference last year will be experienced even better this year now that we – new HP folks and us – have had the experience of last year. Here are a few HP Museum comments.

Before: http://www.hpmuseum.org/cgi-sys/cgiwrap/hpmuseum/archv019.cgi?read=156899#156899
After: http://www.hpmuseum.org/cgi-sys/cgiwrap/hpmuseum/archv019.cgi?read=157231#157231

Our theme this year is "Back to Basics" which seemed appropriate considering the points mentioned above. Everyone is busy and I was concerned that there would be enough interest and activity to even have a Conference. As I write this however I am once again amazed on how things are coming together,

HP is still economy "conservative" with restrictive travel and non-CES participation but I am assured that being in their "backyard" is a very good thing. If you are reading this and considering attending one of the very few events to hobnob with the managers at HP I want you to consider registering at the website. You are not committed, but it gives us a basis for making the many decisions regarding the Conference. I am sure that by the time this is posted there will be some HP News items also posted that supports what I have said above.

Change at HP is a constant and that is another reason to attend. You may get a first hand impression of what is happening. One change I have heard of is very positive indeed and is long overdue. Hey, I can't give you the "scoop" all at one time. Besides the details are yet to unfold.

There may be a "different" HP/User "event" this year so if you need a reason to attend other than "the future is uncertain" this could be it. Oh, while I am thinking of reasons I have another really big one, but everything has to be "on schedule" for this to happen so you will just have to be there. This will be most unusual if the plans all work out.

Yet another "project/possibility" will be more apparent in the future. Looking back at HHC 2010 in the future you will realize that a serious change took place and HHC 2010 might have provided the sign post.

It is like climbing a hill. You don't know you are at the top until you start down and you are no longer looking up. What is the conclusion that I am not talking about? HP is not sleeping.

Here are some reasons to specifically attend HHC 2010.

1. *HP is serious about supporting the Conference. Using their facilities allows us to be (and have meals) together for the full Conference so social time is maximized.*

2. *HP, and the attendee, benefit from personal, casual, and intense information/idea exchange.*

3. *You may put a face to the many names you have read about in books, email, and web postings.*

4. *You personally learn what HP is thinking and why they do the things that they do.*

5. *You will learn about the constraints of the market and how HP is dealing with market and technology changes.*

6. *You will most certainly go home with more than what you came with.*

7. *Holding the Conference at HP greatly reduces the attendee cost. Talk to someone who attended last year to get their impression.*

8. *By registering for the Conference you inspire the Committee to continue to work hard on this most unique activity. Without their dedicated volunteer work it can not happen.*

9. *Because of the small group (typically just under than 50,) and the two full days, all of the above is possible for everyone attending.*

Send me or any HHC committee member an email[1] if you have any ideas, suggestions, comments, or you have something to talk about at the conference. Please register ASAP so we may publish as much information as possible ahead of time. Here is the list so far: http://holyjoe.net/hhc2010/reglist.htm

For the HHC 2010 Conference Committee:

X < > Y,

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P.S. Have you signed up for *HP Solve,* the most widely read HP Calculator newsletter?

http://h20331.www2.hp.com/Hpsub/cache/580500-0-0-225-121.html

All of our most recent HHC web sites may be accessed at: http://hhuc.us

Use this link for referencing HHC Activities. The reports, articles, and photographs record past HHC's.

(1) See HHC Committee email addresses at: http://holyjoe.net/hhc2010/index.htm