

# HHC 2017 Conference Report V3

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## Introduction

We held the Hewlett Packard Handheld Conference, #45 on the website list of conferences, at the Holiday Inn Express in Brentwood, not far from Committee member Gene Wright's home. We have been there twice before (2012 & 2015).

The advantage is the no-cost meeting rooms, which could add up to \$1,000 per day under normal conditions.  $\$2,000/42 = \$48$  to be added to the \$60 Conference cost. The disadvantage is the antiquated air conditioning (and small room size) which is overloaded with our long hours of use. The hotel will renovate in the next two years.

The choice of Conference location is a complex mix of one (vs. two) hop travel, hotel room rate, meeting room costs, and food costs (especially options). In addition to the usually expensive meeting-room costs are the meeting room restrictions such as limited hours, and food restrictions/costs. If you have the hotel cater the three meals, they may even restrict the snacks and drinks.

## HHC 2017 Group photo



Photo by Joseph Horn

1. Jake Schwartz
2. Eric Smith
3. Don Shepherd
4. Bob Proseri
5. Namir Shammass
6. Kimberly Thompson
7. Gene Wright
8. Jeff Turner
9. Bill Butler
10. Tom Mullikin
11. Daniel McDonald
12. Dave Britten
13. David Hayden
14. Torben Schink

15. Richard Schwartz
16. David Haack
17. Peter Marschall
18. Eric Rechlin
19. Jeff Robison
20. Craig Bladow
21. Felix Gross
22. Jackie Woldering
23. Mary Woldering
24. Mary Boetcher
25. Bob Patton
26. Rob Grimes
27. Will Marchant
28. Sylvain Cote

29. Brad Barton
30. Giancarlo Cotrufo
31. Joe Horn
32. Tim Wessman
33. Jim Johnson
34. Eddie Shore
35. Horst Hoffman
36. Roger Hill
37. Richard J. Nelson
38. John Mohn
39. David Ramsey
40. Gunter Schink
41. Jeremy Smith

## Do it yourself food

We had no HP support this year and we did it ourselves. Gene's wife picked up the food from two different caterers and delivered it to the hotel. This saved on costs considerably. We ordered for 45 people and there was more than enough. The emphasis was on Southern style meals. See additional details in the expense section.

## General reaction

The Conference went very well. We had a variety of presentations ranging from the social aspects of our interests to queuing theory to an advanced analysis of root finding as part of the 19 presentations given. **Joseph Horn** kept the schedule accurate live-as-it-happened, and it was changed as the talks progressed. See the details at: <http://hhuc.us/2017/schedule.htm>. The door prizes were very popular with a much greater proportion than usual of calculators.

## Conference costs

The Conference donation was \$60. This was determined Saturday morning when all the expenses were submitted. We had 42 paid attendees and 1 guest. This provided \$2,520 of income. Due to an earlier estimate of \$50 for two attendees who had to leave due to illness, the actual cash collected was \$2,500. See the expenses below.

## Format and attendance

We followed the usual format - since 1979 - with speakers, contests, awards, attendee contributions, door prizes, and community issues discussion (especially suggestions for next year). This year, in addition to the full 32 GB USB 3 flash drive, each attendee received a cell phone charger kit (multiple cables). Many attendees especially appreciated this. I did because my iPhone was down to 15% and I had no cable. In addition, there were many free items available such as USB cables, chargers, adapters, and connectors.

We had three to five first-time attendees. As you may see at <http://hhuc.us/2017/reglist.htm> we had attendees from Canada (2), Italy (1), Germany (3), with the remaining from the US. The highest numbers from individual US states was three from CA, CO, IN, OH, TN, and TX. Thanks Joseph for updating the website to reflect reality. The conference committee works well together and is listed below. Wlodek could not make it this year due to serious family obligations.



## Conference Committee

- Richard Nelson: Hotel; Speakers' Schedule; Proceedings. <[rjnelsoncf@cox.net](mailto:rjnelsoncf@cox.net)>
- Gene Wright: Registration; Nashville Sherpa. <[genela@comcast.net](mailto:genela@comcast.net)>
- Wlodek Mier-Jędrzejowicz: European coordinator. <[wlodekjmj@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:wlodekjmj@yahoo.co.uk)>
- Jake Schwartz: Videographer, historian. <[jakes@pahhc.org](mailto:jakes@pahhc.org)>
- Joseph Horn: Website. <[mail@frjoe.us](mailto:mail@frjoe.us)>
- Eric Rechlin: Dedicated All-Around Helper. <[eric@hpcalc.org](mailto:eric@hpcalc.org)>

## Video coverage

Eric made his usual informal video recording and Jake made his more-edited better-audio recording of the conference. Eric's video will be available first. Jake's takes longer because of the formal editing he does.

An example is the combining of Joseph's HHC 2016 drone video with Jake's video that he did.

Several people have suggested live video streaming for the conference and like any good idea, it takes someone to step up and do it. Everything takes work and someone to make it happen.

## Conference USB flash drive

Something unusual happened this year. Every speaker was able to get their presentation to me in time (thank you, thank you, thank you) to have them copied onto the USB flash drive by Eric before he came to the Conference. This did not require a USB flash drive copy “party” on Friday. Eric made a master and used the image for each copy. It took about an hour for each. The USB 3 32 GB drive is nearly full with 28 GB of approximately 442,000 files in 13,200 folders organized as shown in Fig. 1. There are some very nice calculator related files on this drive. The calculator manuals are especially useful. Several people asked about getting the USB flash drives with the unusual collection of calculator related files. The gathering of these files is one of three special projects done especially for HHC 2017. I just bought 12 more drives. The cost to non-attendees is estimated to be \$25 postpaid to US addresses, and \$30 to foreign addresses. This is subject to change.

Contact Eric or me. Allow us time to catch our breath. Our cost of the drives is \$29.60 for a card of three. COSTCO #802432786000. See Fig. 8 for the Conference report.

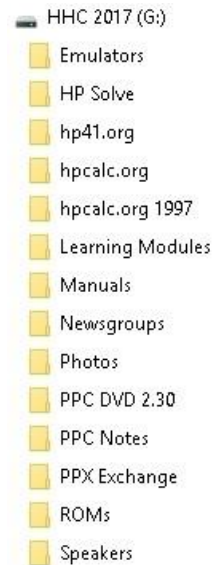


Fig. 1 – USB flash drive.

**Bob Prosperi** (as he has done for several Conferences) took care of the Conference envelope stuffing. A price sheet for HP-41C, CV, CX, repairs and CL installation was provided by old timer, now retired, **Jerry Maynard**. Contact him at [gjmay24@gmail.com](mailto:gjmay24@gmail.com) for information. There is one other person doing HP-41 repairs, Don ORourke, Intl Calculator & Computer, 2431 Aloma Av. Winter Park FL 32792 407.671.1991.

## Winners

We gave a special award to **Jake Schwartz** for his longtime community work. See it in Fig. 2 below. Jake’s initials are used for icon 3 in the Prime display.

The attendees voted **Gene Wright** the Best Speaker.

The programming contest winners were **Bill Butler** and **Roger Hill**. See below.

## Large projects for HHC 2017

Three people took on huge projects for the Conference. The first is presented by **Sylvain Cote** from Canada who meshed a bunch of systems to provide an automated software update for the HP-41CL. The software itself was written by both Sylvain and Monte. Monte wrote the 41CL Update module (a new 41 ROM created specifically for updating the flash database) which does the actual updating, while Sylvain wrote the ‘server’ side in Java for PC/Mac/Linux, which provides the CL Update ROM with all ROM images as needed by the Update ROM during the update process

The user community has strongly supported the HP-41 after nearly 40 years. Replacing a circuit board with a faster microprocessor and huge memory allows the current CL version to hold 320+ ROMs. You may have virtually every known HP-41 ROM along with new ones still being developed in your hand. Gene gave an update in one of his presentations.

A second project was taken on by **Jake Schwartz**. He wanted to scan and index all of EduCALC’s catalogs. EduCALC was the premier calculator source because of its commitment to support the machines it sold with books, cases, and accessories. He also included all information he could about EduCALC. Since I was the last employee before the doors closed, I had some unique items to share. The EduCALC Catalogs, Technical Notes, News lines (both in audio and text form), and assorted training and sales items are included. **Jim Carter** moved the EduCALC surplus to his home in Modjeska Canyon.

His home later burned to the ground in a canyon fire and all was lost. Jake's effort is the most complete documentation available on EduCALC. Thanks Jim for your help with this project. Jake has some very nice analytic slides in his presentation which is a must-see if you knew EduCALC. This historical preservation of calculator history is well indexed and an excellent resource.

The third project was the Conference USB flash drive by **Eric Rechlin**. Eric is well known for his <http://www.hpcalc.org> website. He included his website plus many files that were in limbo for many years and are only now seeing the light of day. He added many other groups of photos, manuals, newsletters, and websites. Searching and organizing took many months of effort.



Fig. 2 – Special award recognizing the work of Jake Schwartz from the “beginning” to the present. RJN Photo.

### Programming Contests

The programming contests were conducted by Gene Wright. The RPL contest, described as “Divide like an Egyptian” was won by **Bill Butler**. The RPN contest, described as “Don’t worry, be happy” was won by **Roger Hill**. Both of these programmers are long-time attendees to HHCs.

### Door prizes

We divided the donated 129 door prizes into two groups, a normal group and a premium group. The voted Best Speaker first selects from the normal group. Next, the two programming contest winners get their pick. The remainder of the prizes are determined by drawing tickets at random on Sunday. Every attendee got at least 3 door prizes and about 30 people got four.

The committee selects the premium group as rare, unusual, or especially expensive prizes. There were eight such prizes this year won by the attendees below. Most of these winners are especially happy.

Attendee Number	Name		Donated Prize
	FIRST	LAST	
13	Giancarlo	Cotrufo	1 - PRIME (new style)
12	Don	Shepherd	2 - PRIME
27	Günter	Schink	3 – HP-15c LE
20	John	Mohn	4 – HP-45 calculator
7	Robert	Prosperi	5 - Soviet calculator
10	Mary	Woldering	6 - HP Travel Power supply
21	Sylvain	Cote	7 - 50g with newRPL OS
25	Namir	Shammas	8 - Metal Slide Rule

*Fig. 3 – Premium prizewinners.*

Bob Prosperi donated a digital nametag that Joseph and I wore at the Conference. If the winner wants a copy of an extensive article I wrote about the display, email me to request a copy. The Chinese instructions need to be additionally explained. Fig. 4 to Fig. 7 are a typical sampling of the four tables of door prizes.



*Fig. 4 – Calculator manuals and interfaces.*



*Fig. 5 – Assorted calculators, TI, Casio, and HP.*



*Fig. 6 – HP manuals, slide rules, 3D printed demos.*



*Fig. 7 – Lots of HP calculators.*

## HP

HP did not formally participate this year. The Prime prospers and an HP42s is not so fortunate.

## Catholic Mass

While some people might call what we do a religion there are real religions that may appear just as mysterious to outsiders. We conduct a Catholic Mass on Sunday. Everyone is welcome, including TI users. Fr. Joseph educates and removes the mystery of the Catholic Mass.

*Photo by Sylvain Cote.*



*Fig. 8 - HHC 2017 Attendees Special Sunday Mass.*

## HHC 2018

There were several suggestions for HHC 2018. The proposed dates are: September 22 & 23 – **not official yet**. The possible locations are (in no special order):

1. San Francisco Bay Area – Monte Dalrymple.
2. Colorado Springs – Tom Mullikin.
3. Vancouver Canada – Geoff Quickfall. 4 don't have passports.
4. Reno – David Ramsey.
5. Ft. Collins – Tim Wessman (if at HP).

As mentioned above the choice of location is complex and requires many details for the hotel, etc. Serious thoughts for another Conference are usually postponed until the New Year, but all inputs are essential for a final decision by the committee.

## The finances

While the cost of the Conference is small compared to travel and hotel room costs, the Conference committee still works especially hard to keep all costs as low as possible. This ensures that the value of attending the Conference is very high. All work is volunteer and the attendees help when needed – such as Sylvain (on Sunday morning) replenishing the drink containers with new sodas, bottled water, and adding ice.

When HP had its Computer Group considered for sale a few years ago the Committee decided to start a Conference fund to insure its not being dependent on HP. The costs that year were low, but we collected the donations as if they were high. Gene and I maintain this buffer Wells Fargo account. Its value has remained relatively constant as each year since has been self-sustaining. We “borrow” a couple hundred one year and add about the same another year. This account guarantees at least one more Conference.

The balance from last year was \$3,526.63. This year we added \$66.17. We collected \$2,500.00 in cash at the registration. Fig. 4 shows the activity of the account. **\$3,592.80 is available for HHC 2018.** The only additional expected activity is the purchase of USB flash drives and the additional expenses and income if we sell any Conference USB flash drives. We will use any remaining USB flash drives for HHC 2018.

WELLS FARGO		Brokerage	Transfer and Pay	More	Sign Off
Account Summary		Switch Account	RJN 170921	Print	Search
Date	Description	HHC 2017 Expenses, Balance for HHC 2018 \$3,592.80	Deposits/Credits	Withdrawals/Debits	
<u>Pending Transactions</u>		<i>Note: Debit card transaction amounts may change.</i>			
09/21/17	ONLINE TRANSFER FROM NELSON R. REF #IB03S2TKKX W	<b>Deposit Error Nashville</b>	\$20.00		
09/21/17	ONLINE TRANSFER TO NELSON R. REF #IB03S2QBSB WEL	<b>Reimburse RJN, he paid Cash for plaque</b>		\$73.64	
<u>Posted Transactions</u>					
⊕ 09/20/17	PURCHASE AUTHORIZED ON 09/20 COSTCO WHSE #1028 MESA AZ P00587263820901211 CARD 0005	<b>Thumb Drives for post Conference sale - 12 pcs.</b>	\$86.40		
⊕ 09/18/17	PURCHASE AUTHORIZED ON 09/17 KROGER NA 5713 EDMONDS NASHVILLE TN P00000000234956384 CARD 0005	<b>Ice Sunday</b>	\$38.15		
⊕ 09/18/17	PURCHASE AUTHORIZED ON 09/16 KROGER NA 5713 EDMONDS NASHVILLE TN P00000000751010095 CARD 0005	<b>Ice Saturday</b>	\$29.68		
⊕ 09/18/17	eDeposit in Branch/Store 09/18/17 09:21:57 AM 5415 MARYLAND WAY BRENTWOOD TN 0005 <a href="#">View Details</a>	<b>Cash after paying food</b>	\$913.00		
⊕ 09/15/17	PURCHASE AUTHORIZED ON 09/15 Wal-Mart Super Center NASHVILLE TN P00000000877108626 CARD 0005		\$112.49		
⊕ 09/14/17	PURCHASE AUTHORIZED ON 09/14 Wal-Mart Super Center NASHVILLE TN P00000000631449073 CARD 0005		\$44.63		
⊕ 09/14/17	PURCHASE AUTHORIZED ON 09/14 Wal-Mart Super Center NASHVILLE TN P00000000070681311 CARD 0005	<b>Snacks Soft Drinks Water Plates, etc.</b>	\$44.48		
⊕ 09/14/17	PURCHASE AUTHORIZED ON 09/14 Wal-Mart Super Center NASHVILLE TN P00000000183778701 CARD 0005		\$67.71		
⊕ 09/14/17	PURCHASE AUTHORIZED ON 09/14 Wal-Mart Super Center NASHVILLE TN P00000000433541042 CARD 0005		\$24.06		
⊕ 07/10/17	PURCHASE AUTHORIZED ON 07/07 COSTCO WHSE #1028 MESA AZ S587188709730560 CARD 0005	<b>Conference Thumb Drives - 48 pcs.</b>	\$345.59		
Totals			\$933.00	\$866.83	

Fig. 9 – HHC Wells Fargo account activity related to HHC 2017. The \$3,526.63 balance did not change from 10/2016 to 6/2017.

## Conclusion

The conference was typical with few exceptions. All the speakers got their presentations to me on time so the mass copy of the USB flash drive wasn't required on Friday before the Conference. Gene and his wife did an excellent job of ordering and delivering/setting up the food. This kept the three-meal cost at a reasonable \$35.45 per attendee. The \$60 Conference donation residual added \$66.17 to the buffer account for next year. Thanks to all who made this a fun, exciting, and successful Conference.

For the Conference Committee, rjn.

## A personal note

The HHC Conferences are managed and organized by the Committee, but it is the attendees who really keep HHCs going. The willingness to help when needed, and the sharing of their expertise is the inspiration for me to keep going. I will see you all at HHC 2018 whenever and where ever it will be.