

The HP running club started way back, before I even joined HP (1978). Prior to Runner's World and the Corporate Cup there was a group called BAIRL (Bay Area Industrial Runners League) which had companies such as Varian, Syntex, PG&E, Lockheed, GE, EPRI, Lawrence Livermore Labs (LLL), SRI, Watkins/Johnson and HP (I think most of the teams were from the Palo Alto area). Ulrich Kaempf was the HP organizer with Rolf Neirmeyer (not sure of the last name) being his helper. Each company was responsible for taking 1 month of the year and putting on a road race for BAIRL which then got scored (like the old Grand Prix series but different scoring). Then, in '78 I joined HP and ran these races. RW came up with it's Corporate Cup idea and wanted to try it out in the Bay Area. Bob Anderson contacted BAIRL and they said "yeah, let's try it out." I caught wind of it and signed up to race (that's when I first met Hersh Jenkins (Santa Rosa) - he won the 10K road race). Then RW pushed the advertising and decided to hold the Nationals at Berkeley that year. For some reason Ulrich didn't want to organize a team so Roger Quimby (Neeley Sales) said he'd do it. He was a BAIRL runner and knew I was too (and a fast one at that point in my life) so he asked me to help. I recruited the fast people, he recruited everyone else, got the money and organized everything. I just showed up and ran. Problem was that RW didn't know what they were doing. Time schedule instantly got 1 hour or more behind schedule. HP runners didn't know how to find each other so teams didn't make it to the start line in some races. In fact some folks didn't even bother to show up and Roger had not made any backup plans for that. So the first year we were 9th (I think) and alot of HP runners didn't want to have anything to do with the Corp Cup for the relays, and the HP team, were so disorganized. We learned alot that year. I started communicating with HP runners thru the old COMSYS system (prior to HP Mail) so that everyone knew what was going on. We started the Wed night workouts at Foothill, talked with RW (David Hans) on a weekly basis and BAIRL started to grow in participation as well. Roger let me take over all of the organization and he was my helper the following year. I met Glenn McCarthy in there somewhere and found that Santa Rosa had a great stash of runners. They usually sent 3 COMPLETE teams to the Regionals with South Bay sending two and they routinely beat us. Then for the Nationals we always merged and you know the rest. I think we were 2nd in the nation in '81 (don't have a clue where the trophy is). HP continued to be a powerhouse on the Corporate Running scene. In 1985, RW was sold and moved back east and the new owners (Rodale Press) did not continue the Corp Cup Relays ('84 Nationals was the biggest year with over 80 teams). A new organization of the companies that competed started a group called USCTF (United States Corporate Track & Field) and later changed their name to USCAA (United States Corporate Athletic Association). The Nationls continued until 2014 as teams began dropping off. HP's participation as a team seemed to fade away after the 1999 Nationals that were held at Los Gatos HS.