



SoCal ARML

Prehistory

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Below is the "prehistory" - all of the teams from the area now represented by the SoCal team.

The largest number of individual participants from Southern California was in 1998, with 9 teams.

The first time a California team participated in ARML was 1990. At that time, they would have had to fly to Pennsylvania to participate. A single team called "California" participated each year from 1990 through 1994, doing quite well: never worse than 12th overall, and tied for 4th in 1994. I believe that those teams were largely composed of students from the San Francisco Bay Area, although they may have occasionally recruited someone from Southern California. In particular, I suspect that Lauren Williams from Palos Verdes was on the 1993 or 1994 team.

In 1995, ARML opened the western site, in Las Vegas. (The western site moved to San Jose in 2001, but then eventually back to Las Vegas.) And with that, the former California team split up and the first Southern California teams emerged.

The two longest-lived such teams were the North Hollywood team and the team that was at various points called "South Bay," "Peninsula," or "Peninsula South Bay," usually also with "California" in the name. The North Hollywood team was largely composed of students from North Hollywood HS and Walter Reed JHS, and was coached by William Fitzgibbon, a Walter Reed teacher. (He may also have sometimes recruited students from Harvard-Westlake, especially if they had gone to Walter Reed.) The Peninsula South Bay team was entirely or almost entirely made up of students at Palos Verdes Peninsula HS. The South Bay team competed every year from 1995 through 2002; the North Hollywood team also competed from 1995 through 2002 except for missing 1996 and 2001. The third longest-lived team was from Mark Keppel HS. Mark Keppel competed each year from 1997 through 2001. There was an explosion of teams - all single-school teams, mostly from LAUSD schools - starting in 1998 and gradually wearing off over the next few years. (One of those

teams was called "Crescent Valley." I don't know if that's the same as Crescenta Valley.) On the other hand, having five of the 6 lowest scoring teams in all of ARML (which is what happened in 1998) isn't that much of an accomplishment.

Here are the overall ranks of those teams, year by year, with ties averaged. There's some inconsistency on whether international teams and alternate teams were counted in these ranks or not. I'll also refer to the Palos Verdes team as "South Bay" although its actual name fluctuated.

1995: North Hollywood 31, South Bay 41.5

1996: North Hollywood 34.5, South Bay 36

1997: South Bay 26.5, Mark Keppel 85

1998: South Bay 31.5, North Hollywood 35, Mark Keppel 70, Westchester A 72, Crescent Valley 97, King/Drew 99, Carson 100, Jordan 101, Westchester B 102

1999: South Bay 30.5, North Hollywood 42, Westchester A 76, Mark Keppel 77.5, Westchester B 105, Carson 106

2000: South Bay 15.5, North Hollywood 50.5, Crescent Valley 61, Mark Keppel 83.5, University HS 100

2001: South Bay 49, Mark Keppel 96, Westchester 98

2002: Southern California 19, South Bay 57.5, North Hollywood 65

All of these teams competed in Division B. As you can see, the high-water mark was the 2000 South Bay Peninsula team, which tied for 15th overall and tied for first in Division B. (They somehow managed to talk their way out of being placed in Division A for the next year.) This team did recruit one student from outside of Palos Verdes: a 12th grader at Long Beach Poly named James Merryfield (aka jmerry). This was the first I had heard of ARML, although I did not accompany the team to Las Vegas that year.

I'm pretty sure that "University HS" in 2000 was University HS in Los Angeles. There were probably no Orange County students on any ARML team until 2002.

The first true multi-school team was the Southern California team in 2002, which is the beginning of the "history" as opposed to "prehistory". None of the single-school teams ever came to ARML after 2002, although it took a few years for Palos Verdes and North Hollywood students to start joining the SoCal team.