

**Top Operator
Samuel Morales,
"Men In White"
Mechanics Team
Take Top Honors
at 25th Annual
MTA Bus Rodeo**



By JOSÉ UBALDO

(May 23) The MTA family enjoyed a relaxing and fun family day full of food, music and, of course, winners under a scorching sun last Saturday at the 25th Bus Rodeo.

**You
Were
There:**
[Click here
for virtual
tour.](#)

Division 1 bus operator Samuel Morales and the Division 9 mechanic team emerged victorious in the grueling competition.

In the Bus Operator category, Sammy Morales scored 620 out of 650 possible points. In second place was Frederick Owens from Division 9 with 614 points and Candelario Gómez from Division 10 took third place with 603 points. The top operators are going to the APTA International Finals in San Francisco along with the "Men In White" mechanic team from Division 9.

Every year for the past 25 years, MTA bus operators and mechanics show to the public why they are considered the best of the best in their profession.

The bus operator course had 11 obstacles: left turn, duel door clearance, right turn, offset street, serpentine, left hand reverse, first passenger stop, right hand reverse, second passenger stop, diminishing clearance and judgment stop.

In the mechanic category, the "Men in White" Division 9 team of Albert Semadeni, Berry Richter, Edward Rivera and (alternate) Pete Baeza won top honor as they solved the problems in engine inspection, break board and bus inspection events.

Julian Burke, MTA Chief Executive Officer and Tom Conner, Executive Officer Operations, were also present at the annual event held at the Santa Anita Race Track.

In the meantime, even with the sun shining at its best, the families were entertained by clowns and the music of Vicky Vann Band. Rodeo fans also enjoyed the delicious lunch of carne asada, hot dogs, potato salad, refried beans, chips, soft drinks and water, and lots of water under the sun.

The Los Angeles Sheriff's Department, Los Angeles Police Department and various MTA departments participated at the event, where a car show was held.

[Back to MTA Report](#)