

SAVE THE DATE: MTA Bus Rodeo, Saturday, June 23, 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at Santa Anita Race Track, Gate 6 off Colorado Place in Arcadia. Family fun, great food, classic cars and amazing competition among the MTA's top drivers and mechanics!



30 Operators, 10 Maintenance Teams to Compete in Saturday's Bus Rodeo

(June 20, 2001) After days of preliminary rounds in which sweating operators wrestled their buses through a difficult obstacle course, the field for this year's MTA Bus Rodeo has been narrowed from 195 to 30 competitors.

The Rodeo finals, scheduled Saturday, June 23, at Santa Anita Racetrack, should be exciting. In addition to the driving contest, maintenance teams from 10 divisions also will compete for the right to represent the MTA at the American Public Transit Association international finals in Philadelphia in September.

"The preliminaries went perfectly," says Frank Cecere, the transportation operations supervisor who runs the annual event. "There were no protests, no problems, and we ran on schedule every day."

Four bus operators scored more than 600 out of a possible 650 points in the preliminaries. Leading the pack are Conrad Noriega of Division 9, 629; Samuel Morales of Division 1, 624; Luduvico Castro of Division 9, 608 and Mark Holland of Division 9, 607.

Morales was the Rodeo winner in 2000, while Holland took first place in 1999. Down the list at Number 18, with 518 points, is Frederick Owens of Division 9, who took second place in the 2000 Rodeo.

Signed up for the maintenance competition are teams from divisions 1, 2, 3, 4, 7, 8, 9, 10, 15 and 18. The maintenance event includes diagnosing and correcting problems with braking, engine, transmission and power plant systems, as well as a bus inspection.

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