



The real deal: Thanks to reader Ken Matsuno, Division 18 Maintenance Manager, for setting the record straight. Congratulations to Division 18 for winning the coveted Best Bus Decoration Trophy. Photo: Ken Matsuno



And the Best Bus Decoration Trophy goes to Division 18 for their fanciful approach to cartoon characters aboard to get us in the holiday mood.

Holiday Buses Take Season's Greetings on the Road

By Ed Scannell

Put a 40-foot transit bus in the creative hands of a team of MTA bus operators and mechanics, students, and community members, and what do you get? Happiness on wheels.

Decorated for the Christmas season, buses from several MTA bus divisions paraded around the Patsaouras Transit Plaza, next to the MTA's headquarters in downtown Los Angeles, before the admiring eyes of Santa Claus, the public and a panel of judges. Holiday music played from the buses enhanced the mood.

Each bus arrived loaded with cans of food contributed by division employees as part of Operations Holiday Bus Stop 2001. Following the judging, the canned goods were distributed to churches, service centers and other organizations chosen by the employees of each division.

On hand to greet the arrival of the 15-ton, 45-foot buses featuring a ersatz Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer, were students from Aragon and State Street elementary schools and Chatsworth and Poly Tech high schools.

Winners All...



Division 2 bags DAC trophy.

Some of more fanciful designs included Division 10's recreation of a gingerbread house complete with a descending Santa squeezing into the real toy shop inside the bus.

Division 18 won for Best Bus Decoration and runner-up Division 10 came in a close second.

The judges awarded the Elementary School Participation Award Trophy to Division 3 and Aragon Elementary School.

The High School Participation went to Division 8 and the always artful Chatsworth High School.

And, the Most Successful DAC Participation in the Holiday Food Drive was bagged by Division 2.

A total of 8 divisions and 4 schools participated in the bus decorating contest. Following the parade, the decorated buses returned to service and picked up surprised customers.

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Tigger and Pooh are bound for glory aboard Division 18 bus.



Division 8 and Chatsworth High School created a winter wonderland.



Division 10 Transportation Manager Evelyn Frizielle shows off gingerbread house that drew raves and earned second place in the Best Bus Decoration category.