



We Brake for Judges - Yard tracks at Division 20 can barely contain this 80,000 pounds of Red Line steel rarin' to compete in the MTA Rail Rodeo.

MTA Rail Rodeo Set for April 20; Families Invited for the Day

(April 5, 2002) What does it take to operate a Metro Rail train professionally? To maintain such a complex piece of machinery and electronics?

The MTA's 2002 Rail Rodeo, scheduled Saturday, April 20, at the Metro Red Line yard, will test the skills of some 15 train operators and an equal number of rail equipment maintenance specialists. The winners will represent the MTA at the APTA International Rail Rodeo, June 10, in Baltimore.

This year's Rail Rodeo will be a family event with food, refreshments and entertainment for the kids. All employees are invited. The rail yard is located at 320 Santa Fe Ave., about a mile or so south of MTA Headquarters.

"I hope employees will come out April 20 to watch Team Rail in action," says Rail General Manager Gerald Francis. "This event will give our rail operators and maintenance specialists an opportunity to test their skills and abilities against their peers. Getting the chance to represent the MTA at the International Rail Rodeo is like being on an all-star team."



^ 2001 MTA Rail Rodeo winners Tu Phan, left, and Robert Rodriguez, center, with RTOS Chris Medina, left, coach and instructor represented MTA at the International Rail Rodeo.

Rail Rodeo events

During the Rail Rodeo, which will occupy much of the day, competing operators will be judged on uniforms, customer service and safe operation of a train over a course in the yard and on the main line. Events include pre-departure inspections, coupling and uncoupling procedures and a safety quiz.

Rail equipment maintenance specialists will participate in nine events, including a written exam. They'll be tested on mechanical aptitude and must solve hands-on problems involving electrical and electronic circuitry. The specialists who place in the top three positions will form a team that

will represent the MTA in Baltimore.

"We've developed these events to mirror last year's international rail rodeo," says Art Crabtree, Equipment Engineering manager.

To qualify for the Rail Rodeo, participants must meet strict requirements for job attendance and performance, and safety on the job.

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