



Maintenance specialists Eric Petersen, Ronnie Burt and Juan Ruvalcaba scored the mechanics trophy at the 2002 MTA Rail Rodeo.

Everyone's Invited!

Hot Contest Shaping Up for Rail Rodeo, Saturday, May 3

• [How to get there](#)

(April 29, 2003) A hot contest is shaping up among Metro Rail operators and maintenance specialists, Saturday, May 3, and MTA employees, their families and friends are invited to the big event at Metro Blue Line Division 11.

Twenty-one train operators and 14 rail mechanics will face off in an intense professional competition during the 7th Annual MTA Rail Rodeo. Family activities start at 9 a.m. and will continue through the awards presentation at about 3:30 p.m.

Metro Red Line operators Robert Rodriguez and Tu Phan and maintenance specialists Ronnie Burt and Juan Ruvalcaba will be defending their 2002 MTA Rail Rodeo titles. The four were members of the MTA team at the 2002 APTA International Rail Rodeo in Baltimore.

Rodriguez and Phan won the operators' competition at that event – the first winners MTA has had at the international level.

Family activities at this year's Rail Rodeo will include "jumper houses" for big and little kids and a professional clown who performs balloon tricks and face painting.

Country/Western band

From 12:30 until 2:30 p.m., Janie Steele and the Pacific Electric country/western band will perform. Operation Lifesaver, the Sheriff's Department and the Long Beach Fire Department will have displays.

An IN-N-OUT BURGER Cookout Trailer will provide hot-off-the-grill hamburgers, cheeseburgers, Double-Double burgers, chips and soft drinks from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m.

"Division 11 is off the beaten track and the Rail Rodeo is on Saturday," says Rail Division Transportation Manager Duane Martin, "but, we're hoping three- or four-hundred people will come."

A full schedule of Rodeo events will be taking place, beginning at 7 a.m. Operators will participate in a uniform inspection, written test of rules and procedures and a pre-trip inspection of a rail car. They'll also be required to drive a designated course with precision stops and other exercises.

Meanwhile, the maintenance specialists will work their way through 10 events, including a written test, electrical and mechanical problems and a safety exercise.

How to Get to the MTA Rail Rodeo

To reach Metro Blue Line Division 11 from the Long Beach Freeway, I-710, take the Del Amo Boulevard exit and watch for MTA Rail Rodeo directional signs.

Drive west on Del Amo and turn left onto Santa Fe Avenue and left again onto 208th Street.

Enter the Division 11 access road at the end of 208th Street for the Metro Blue Line yard. Continue $\frac{3}{4}$ ths of a mile, stopping at the Union Pacific rail crossing, before proceeding to the public parking area.

[Back to Bulletin Board](#)