



Rail Services Director Dave Kubicek and Rail General Manager Gerald Francis, back row from left, with top-scoring mechanics at MTA Rail Rodeo who went on to win the APTA International Competition: Front row from left, Glen Abraham, Ronnie Burt, and Eric Czintos.

MTA Maintenance Team Places First at International Rail Competition

By ADRIENNE FIGUEROA

(June 10, 2003) While cloudy skies blanketed the Los Angeles area, last Saturday, MTA's Rail Rodeo winners shone brightly at the APTA International Rail Competition in San Jose.

The maintenance team took first place and the operator team came in ninth – collectively putting MTA in third place overall.

"This is a great honor," said Metro Red Line Director of Rail Services Dave Kubicek. "I'm very pleased. This is a good representation of our staff and our commitments."

Maintenance team members are Metro Red Line Maintenance Specialist Glen Abraham and Metro Blue Line Maintenance specialists Ronnie Burt and Eric Czintos. Last year's team took seventh place.

The operator team consisted of Metro Red Line operators Tu Phan and Robert Rodriguez. The two men placed first in last year's International Rail Competition – the first time an MTA team had won at the international level.

Team awards

Following the San Jose event, maintenance team members were awarded a plaque and a \$1,000 savings bond for each member.

"I couldn't be any prouder of those guys," said Rail Equipment Manager George Kennedy.

Kennedy attributes the rail maintenance team's achievement to hard work and more experience, since last year was the first time the maintenance team contended in the International Rail Competition.

"This year, they had a little more experience and held their heads high," he said. "Their dedication is what got them there."

When the winners return from San Jose this week, a cookout will be held in their honor at Metro Blue Line Division 11.

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