

PHOTO BY BILL HEARD



Volunteers from divisions prepared 200 pounds of carne asada and 40 pounds of hot links to serve hundreds of Rodeo spectators.

2003 Bus Rodeo – It was Fun in the Sun

By ADRIENNE FIGUEROA

(July 22, 2003) It was hot and it was humid, but the weather would not deter hundreds from attending the MTA's annual Bus Rodeo, last Saturday, at Santa Anita.

Event attendees – MTA employees, their friends and families – took refuge from the bright sun under large tents while being soothed by the sounds of Motown, oldies and meringue tunes throughout the day.

South Bay Division 18 Bus Operator William Marshall, the Rodeo DJ, pumped out a plethora of musical selections from his own personal CD and record collection.

"I hope this brings an open ear to embrace everyone's music," Marshall said as he watched a small group of people grooving to a festive dance song.

Fifteen volunteer cooks from various departments, led by Alex DiNuzzo and Harold Torres, prepared a tasty barbeque lunch for hundreds of hungry attendees.

PHOTOS BY ADRIENNE FIGUEROA



A young music fan hangs out at the DJ tent with disc jockey William Marshall, right, and co-worker Jesse Gibson.



Standing over a hot grill and sprayed with a light mist of water from nearby floor fans, the crew cooked up 200 pounds of carne asada and 40 pounds of hot links. Soda, chips, bread and tub-loads of potato salad and refried beans also were served.

Catching up with co-workers

DiNuzzo, a member of the cooking crew for the past nine years, enjoys this part of the event because it gives him the opportunity to catch up with co-workers he has not seen in awhile.

Because of his responsibility at the grill, old friends typically drop by to greet him while picking up their lunches. "If they want food or drinks, they have to come see me."

This year's car and motorcycle show produced a range of classic eye candy for Roadeo-goers. Eighteen contestants in all – 15 car owners and 3 motorcycle owners – showcased their pride and joy.

Carlos Rojas, car and motorcycle show coordinator, proudly displayed his tan 1969 VW Transporter – one of six classic cars he has collected and restored.

Winner of The Best of Show Import category, Rojas, a 27-year MTA veteran, shook his head and chuckled about his new award.

"I wasn't expecting to win anything," he said. "I guess it was sheer luck. The judges elected me because I was the only one who entered this category. I won by default."

Thrilled to win

Mike Flores was thrilled to learn that his 2003 Harley Davidson Soft Tail Deuce – a special anniversary edition

PHOTO OF LASD HELICOPTER BY LISA HUYNH

Five-year-old Victoria Dunning takes a seat in the Sheriff's Department helicopter.



Cliff Thorne's children happily claimed their father's prize as their own.

Carlos Rojas' 1969 VW Transporter was voted Best of Show Import.



MTA BUS ROADEO CAR SHOW WINNERS

- Best of Show Bike: North Hollywood Division 7 Operator Mike Flores, Harley Davidson Soft Tail Deuce
- Best of Show Truck: Rich Wyman, 1956 Ford F-100 pickup
- Best of Show Car: Facilities Services Property Maintainer "A" Craig Bruns, 1956 Chevy 210 sedan
- Best of Show Custom: RRC Equipment Maintenance Instructor Richard Mensel, 1957 Chevy Wagon

Best of Show In-Progress: Crossroads

model – had been named the Best of Show Bike winner. Most of the day, he stood over a hot grill preparing carne asada as judges evaluated his shiny black chopper in the car show lot.

"I am completely surprised and very proud – especially since it's the 2003 Bus Rodeo," Flores said, gleefully. "I find it very appropriate that it coincides with the 2003 Harley Davidson."

The car and motorcycle show was not the only event that created overjoyed winners. A lunchtime raffle offered an assortment of prizes.

Cliff Thorne held the winning raffle ticket that made him the happy owner of a Snap-On toolbox and a shiny red go-cart.

"This is going to be for the kids," he said as his excited children jumped into the go-cart. "I'm not going to be able to get them out of it!"

[Back to MTA Report](#)

Division 2 Operator Lawrence Tubbs,
1967 Chevelle Coupe

- Best of Show Classic: Carson Division 18
Equipment Maintenance Supervisor Fred
Vincelet, 1973 Dodge Challenger
 - Best of Show Import: RRC Maintenance
Instructor Carlos Rojas, 1969 VW
Transporter
 - Best of Show Low-Rider: Robert
Gonzales, 1955 Chevy Bel-Air
 - Best of Show Muscle: Carson Division 18
Equipment Maintenance Supervisor Gary
Schachel, 1969 El Camino
-