

Celebrating Southern California Bus Rodeo trophies are, from left, Frank Cecere, Operator Mark Holland, mechanics Frank Forde, Rommel Vargas and Andrew Warren, Jr. and Alex DiNuzzo and Steve Mullaly.



MTA's 2nd Place Showing at SoCal Bus Rodeo holds Promise for International Finals

By STEVE MULLALY

(Sept. 9, 2003) It was a great day at the Southern California Regional Bus Rodeo in Chula Vista, last Saturday, when MTA's team captured second place against stiff competition from area transit agencies.

The showing by San Gabriel Valley Division 9 Operator Mark Holland and the Arthur Winston Division 5 maintenance team of Andrew Warren, Jr., Rommel Vargas and Frank Forde holds promise for the APTA International Bus Rodeo finals, Sept. 27, in Salt Lake City.

This was the second time Holland has competed in the regional Rodeo in the past four years.

Going up against 16 of Southern California's best bus operators, Holland thought he had a good chance at first place. But, OMNITRANS operator Bill Lauwers took the first place honors, beating Holland by a small margin.

Holland is now looking forward to representing MTA during the finals competition in Salt Lake City. It will be his third trip to an APTA International Bus Rodeo.

Division 5's maintenance team did amazingly well for first time contenders at the regional Rodeo. The crew scored the highest number of points in the ABS Air Brake Board event and on the Thermo-King A/C module, a demonstration event.

The Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA) took first place in the maintenance event. The team has been together and competing for the past five years.

During the competition, the Division 5 team was cheered on by their spouses, by Maintenance Manger Alex DiNuzzo and his wife, by Deputy Executive Officer Milo Victoria, and five other mechanics from Division 5.

Special recognition should go to MTA employees who donated their time and hard work to ensure that all who attended the regional Bus Rodeo would have a day they will always remember.

Thanks to Vehicle Operations Supervisor Frank Cecere, Maintenance Instructor Brain Markey, Maintenance Instructor Carlos Rojas,

Maintenance Instructor Richard Au and Transit Operations Supervisor Ernie Martinez.

For more information on the competition, visit the Southern California Regional Bus Rodeo's website at www.scrbr.com.

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