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Sun and Fun



Brothers
Darian,
11, and
Adjrian
Ganai, 3,
enjoyed
the fun
house
slide.

2004 Raildeo Brought Metro Families Together

By BILL HEARD, Editor

(May 4, 2004) If you didn't get a sunburn at the 2004 Metro Raildeo, you weren't trying. And many of the 200-plus employees, family members and friends who turned out for the annual event went home with glowing arms and faces.

The day's hot weather was reflected in the Metro Red Line Division 20 rail yard where 19 Metro Rail operators engaged in a sizzling competition to make the team that will represent the agency at the APTA International Rail Rodeo in June.

"This is more than just a rail rodeo," said General Manager Gerald Francis. "It's a family outing, an opportunity for employees and their families to mix together and have a lot of fun."

PHOTOS BY BILL HEARD



The inflatable fun house was a favorite of the kids.

While the competitors focused on the demanding events, kids were wearing themselves out jumping and sliding in the inflatable fun house. Most took an air-conditioned break to view the rail safety video in the "Metro Experience" mobile theater.

There also was plenty of music: live, recorded and karaoke.

The joint was jumpin'

The salsa band, "El Chicano," led by Metro Rail Operator Mickey Lespron and his partner, singer Ersi Arvizu, kept the joint jumpin' with a variety of tunes.

A 25-year veteran bus and rail operator, Lespron and the band have played for the Metro Red Line opening to Hollywood, for the Metro Gold Line opening and for a number of employee holiday parties.

The part-time musician also has competed in several rail rodeos, usually placing within the top five. "The first year, I was second to last. I didn't know anything!"

This year, he scored 447.5 points and was tied for 15th place with Operator Jesus Serrano.

"An event like this lets our Metro Rail employees fine-tune their skills," said Deputy CEO John Catoe. "But, it's also a fun thing, a time when our employees



The "Metro Experience" mobile theater provided rail safety lessons in living color and 3-D.



In-'n-Out Burger was prepared with 600 burgers, fries and drinks – and they served every one of them during the Raildeo.



Looking for some karaoke "R-E-S-P-E-C-T" are, from left, Anita Coleman, Oletha Smith, Dana Ganai and Dana Coffey. Anita Ramirez is operating the machine.



Families gathered under the tents for

can show their families where they work and just get together and enjoy themselves."

lunch and to avoid the bright sun.



"El Chicano," led by Metro Rail Operator Mickey Lespron and his partner, singer Ersi Arvizu, provided entertainment.

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