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PHOTO: LISA HUYNH



THE HEAT IS ON - Mechanics Tim Wong, Jose Gomez and Chris Hurtado diagnose brake board defects under pressure at annual Bus Roadeo in 2003.

30 Operators, 7 Mechanics Teams in Saturday's Metro Bus Roadeo

- Plus, family fun and barbecue at Santa Anita Gate 6

(July 27, 2004) Thirty Metro Bus operators – many of whom are familiar from past competitions – will battle for recognition as top operator in the 2004 Metro Bus Roadeo, Saturday, at Santa Anita Racetrack Gate 6 parking lot in Arcadia.

Maintenance teams from seven operating divisions also will vie for this year's honors. Scheduled to compete are maintenance teams from divisions 1, 3, 5, 6, 7, 10 and 18.

The winning operator and maintenance team will represent Metro at the American Public Transit Association international finals, Oct. 9, in Atlanta.

This Saturday's event should be a crowd-pleaser. Maintenance teams will begin check-in at 7 a.m., while the operators will begin their obstacle course runs about 9 a.m.

Family entertainment

For family entertainment, Roadeo coordinators are planning a gift basket raffle, a DJ and games for the kids. The Sheriff's Department will fly in a helicopter for a rappelling demonstration. There will be a classic car and motorcycle show and departmental information booths.

This year's barbecue, which begins at 11 a.m., will feature ribs, chicken, salad, bread and sodas. A hot dog cart also will be provided for the length of the event, which is expected to end about 1:30 p.m.

30 operators competing

The 30 operators scheduled to compete in this year's Bus Roadeo, in order of their standing in the preliminaries, are Samuel Morales, Division

1; Juan Navarro, Division 3; Ralph Jeffrey, Division 5; Luduvico Castro, Division 9; Mark Holland, Division 9; Marcos Mejia-Portillo, Division 1; Wendell Rush, Division 18; and Wisconsin Lim, Division 5.

Also, Fernando Calderon, Division 1; Julio Flores, Division 8; Conrad Noriega, Division 9; Hugo Mercado, Division 1; Luis Martinez, Division 2; David Aguilar, Division 1; Agustin Confesor, Division 8; Ricardo Martinez, Division 9; Jose Sierra, Division 2; Juan Serrano, Division 8; Lorenzo Jimenez, Division 1; and Guadalupe Quiroz, Division 9.

Also, Roberto Ramirez, Division 1; Alberto Hinojos, Division 9; Jesse Cervantes, Division 9; Juan Romo, Division 7; Hugo Repreza, Division 15; Aubrey McGlory, Division 7; Jeffery Wilbanks, Division 2; Manuel Guzman, Division 3; Dan Jenkins, Division 5; and Armando Romualdo, Division 8.

7 maintenance teams competing

Maintenance team members are Fred Hines, Gustavo Sanchez and Sergio Barron of Division 1; Tim Wong, Arnold Del Toro and Cristobal Hurtado of Division 3; and Andrew Warren Jr., Rommel Vargas and Frank Forde of Division 5.

Also, Naren Desai, Jesus Guerra and Jose Ramirez of Division 6; Jesse Romero, Christopher Valenzuela and Baldemar Gonzalez of Division 7; Doug Creveling, David Klinkenborg and Saul Sanchez of Division 10; and Javier Soria, Mina Ros and Luke Logan of Division 18.

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