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## Bus Rodeo Fun: The Kids Were Playing for Keeps



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By SHANTAY IOSIA

(Aug. 3, 2004) While the bus operators and maintenance workers were battling for titles in the 2004 Metro Bus Rodeo, the children of the Rodeo were playing for keeps.

Families, friends and Metro employees enjoyed a day of barbecue, games and competition at the annual event, Saturday, at Santa Anita Race Track in Arcadia.

As Operator Luduvico Castro was working to secure his spot in the APTA Internationals, Aaron Gretch, 10, and David Hunt, 9, teamed up a few feet away to champion the water sports.

Aaron laid flat on his back holding a water bottle above his forehead as David raced back and forth fetching water with a paper cup. They were the first to fill their bottle to the rim. David took home a super soaker and Aaron left with a CD case.

"It feels good to be a champ," David said.

PHOTOS: SHANTAY IOSIA



David Hunt, 9, left, took home a super soaker while Aaron Gretch, 10, won a CD case in a grueling water carrier competition.

## A snake on his arm

Some passed the games and ventured other featured attractions. Daniel Pedemonte, 6, sat under a tent while Blinky the Clown painted a snake around his arm.

Daniel's father, Marco Pedemonte, a Division 10 equipment maintenance supervisor, says



Blinky the Clown paints a snake around Daniel Pedemonte's arm.

he brings his family to the event every year. "I used to come as a competitor," the former International champion says. "Now I come as a supervisor."

People were encouraged to enter their cars or motorcycles in the annual Classic Car Show. The visitors voted for their favorites ranging in categories from best import to best work in progress.

Mike Flores, a Metro Gold Line maintenance worker, showcased his Harley Davidson. And, although he didn't take home a medal, he says he hasn't missed a Roadeo since he started.

Winners of the Bus Roadeo raffle for two tool carts were Division 9 Mechanic Javier Castro and Mechanic Joe Leach of the Regional Rebuild Center. The raffle raised \$940, which will be donated to the Bob Hope USO facility at Los Angeles International Airport.



### Classic Car Show

- Best of Show, Car – Rodger Klinkinberg, 1934 Dodge Coupe
- Best of Show, Truck – Antony Johnson, 1969 Chevy Longhorn Pickup
- Best of Show, Motorcycle – Milo Victoria, 1992-98 Eldorado
- Best of Show, Import – Jose Barajas, 1962 VW
- Best of Show, Muscle Car – Ray Legorretta,

1969 Dodge Coronet

- Best of Show, Custom – Mike Tanori, 1995 Harley-Davidson
- Best of Show, Classic – Virgil Boley, 1962 Cadillac
- Best of Show, In-Progress – Robert Ortiz, 1970 VW



Mike Flores, a Metro Gold Line maintenance worker, showcased his Harley Davidson.

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