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Winner's Circle> At left, top operator Luduvico Castro; at right, winning Division 18 mechanics Luke Logan, Javier Soria and Mina Ros. Below, Division 1 Operator Marcos Mejia-Portillo, center left, came in third with 561 points and Division 3 Operator Juan Navarro, center right, came in second for the second year in a row with 566 points. The winning operators are joined by Division 1 Transportation Manager Sonia Owens, Metro Gateway Cities GM Alex Clifford, DEO John Catoe and Division 3 Transportation Manager Dan Frawley.



## Div. 9 Operator Castro; Div. 18 Mechanics Win 2004 Bus Rodeo

- Team will represent Metro at APTA Internationals in Atlanta

By BILL HEARD, Editor

(Aug. 3, 2004) Division 9 Operator Luduvico Castro came out of fourth place in the preliminaries to win the 2004 Metro Bus Rodeo operator's trophy. The Division 18 team of Javier Soria, Mina Ros and Luke Logan won the maintenance competition.

Together, the four-member team will represent Metro in October at the APTA International Bus Rodeo in Atlanta.

Some 500 employees, their families and friends turned out for the annual event held, Saturday, at Santa Anita Racetrack. The day included a barbecue, fun and games for the kids, the Metro Experience mobile theater and a classic car show.

But, most attention was focused on the competitors. Scoring a total of 580 points, Castro finished a mere 14 points ahead of the 566 compiled by Division 3 Operator Juan Navarro, runner-up for the second year in a row.



Division 9 Transportation Manager Mike Greenwood, left, congratulates Rodeo winner Operator Luduvico Castro. Castro left the event before he knew he had won.

### Didn't know he had won

Eager to attend a wedding, the 58-year-old Castro – a 32-year veteran driver – left the event before he knew he had won. “I did terrible; I knocked over two cones,” he lamented just after his run. “Next time, I’ll go slower so I won’t hit anything.”

Navarro, 29, who has competed in each of his six years with Metro, wasn’t satisfied with his second-place finish. He really wants to represent Metro at the international competition.

Capturing the number three slot with 561 points was Division 1 Operator Marcos Mejia-Portillo. Division 1 Operator Sam Morales, a two-time Metro Bus Rodeo winner, followed in fourth place with 556 points.

In fifth place with 539 points was last-year’s champion, Division 9 Operator Mark Holland, who has won the local competition five times. He represented Metro at international finals in Montreal in 1988; San Antonio, 1995; Orlando, 1999; Philadelphia, 2001; and in Salt Lake City in 2003.



Division 10 mechanics team, David Klinkenborg, left, and Saul Sanchez race to crank up an idle bus engine.

### Maintenance results

In the maintenance competition, the Division 18 mechanics scored a blistering 1,030 points – 220 points ahead of runners-up Doug Creveling, David Klinkenborg and Saul Sanchez of Division 10 with 810 points. Taking third place with 795 points was the Division 5 team of Andrew Warren Jr., Rommel Vargas and Frank Forde.

This year's maintenance competitors upended last year's results. The Division 5 maintenance team won the 2003 Bus Rodeo. Division 10 finished in second place and Division 18 finished third.

Rounding out the maintenance competition were the Division 6 team of Naren Desai, Jesus Guerra and Jose Ramirez in fourth place with 675 points and the Division 1 team of Fred Hines, Gustavo Sanchez and Sergio Barron in fifth place with 670 points.

In sixth place was the Division 3 team of Tim Wong, Arnold Del Toro and Cristobal Hurtado with 645 points. The Division 9 team of Omar Numara and Ricardo Hernandez placed seventh with 400 points, while Division 7's Jesse Romero, Christopher Valenzuela and Baldemar Gonzalez placed eighth with 300 points.



Gentle Giant>

Operator brings Metro Bus through the obstacle course.

### Bus operator results

Final results in the operator's competition showed Jesse Cervantes, Division 9 in sixth place with 537 points; Julio Flores, Division 8, 536; Aubrey McGlory, Division 7, 528; Juan Serrano, Division 8, 516; Agustin Confesor, Division 8, 507; and Ralph Jeffrey, Division 5, 503.

Also, Guadalupe Quiroz, Division 9, 468; David Aguilar, Division 1, 442; Luis Martinez, Division 2, 438; and Fernando Calderon, Division 1, 436; Ricardo Martinez, Division 9, 434; Roberto Ramirez, Division 1; 433; Jose Sierra, Division 2, 427; and Wendell Rush, Division 18, 415.

Also, Jeffery Wilbanks, Division 2, 414; Manuel Guzman, Division 3, 399; Alberto Hinojuz, Division 9, 397; Conrad Noriega, Division 9, 395; Armando Romualdo, Division 8, 390; Dan Jenkins, Division 5, 385; Hugo Mercado, Division 1, 373; Juan Romo, Division 7, 349; and Hugo Repreza, Division 15, 347.

-- Reporter Shantay Iosia contributed to this story.