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2004 Champs> Metro Red Line operators Tu Phan, foreground, Jesus Valdez, center, and Manjit Singh, at left, placed first, second and third, respectively, at the 9th annual Metro Raildeo in 2004. Coach Esther Pippins, Rail Transit Operations Supervisor, accompanied the Metro team to the international competition held in Miami.



Metro Rail's Best Will Go Head-to-Head at 2005 Raildeo, April 9

(April 1, 2005) Metro's best rail operators and maintenance specialists are preparing for a head-to-head competition on Saturday, April 9, when the 2005 Raildeo is held at the Metro Blue Line yard.

The two operators and three maintenance specialists who win the local event will represent Metro as a team during the American Public Transportation Association International Rail Rodeo finals, June 2-6 in Pittsburgh, Pa.

This year's Metro Raildeo will be open only to the transportation and maintenance competitors and judges. A separate Rail Operations Summer Celebration for employees and their families will be held Saturday, June 25, at the Metro Red Line facility.

"When our team comes back from the Internationals, we'll have a celebration acknowledging them and all those who participated in the Raildeo," says General Manager Gerald Francis.

Rail Ops Summer Celebration

The Summer Celebration will feature the Metro Experience mobile theater, live entertainment, a motorcycle show, games and activities for children and a barbecue.

Coming Soon: 2005 Metro Bus Rodeo

July 15-19>
Operator Practice Sessions

July 20-23>
Preliminary Competition

July 30 >
Bus Rodeo Finals, Santa Anita

Operators competing in the Raildeo, scheduled from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m., will be expected to successfully complete such events as a pre-departure inspection, equipment troubleshooting, a rulebook test and an obstacle course designed to test driving skills.

Events for the maintenance specialists, scheduled from 10 a.m. to 2 pm., include identification of defective equipment components and wheel defects, torque wrench application, use of measuring devices and a mystery box problem. Each competitor will spend a total of almost three hours on the various events.

Last year, operators Tu Phan and Jesus Valdez competed on behalf of Metro in the international finals in Miami. In 2003, maintenance specialists Eric Czintos, Ronnie Burt and Glenn Abraham competed for Metro and finished first in the 2003 international event.

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