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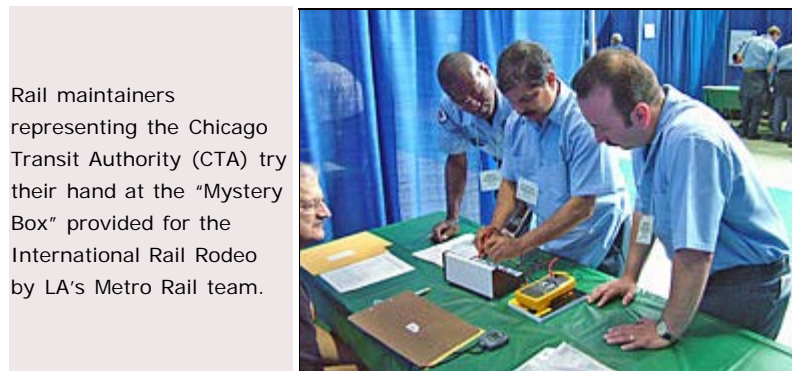
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PHOTOS: RUSSELL HOLMAN



Metro's team of Rail Fleet Services specialists, from left, Ronnie Burt, Eric Czintos and Rafaele Mastrangelo put their heads together over the written test.



Rail maintainers representing the Chicago Transit Authority (CTA) try their hand at the "Mystery Box" provided for the International Rail Rodeo by LA's Metro Rail team.

## Metro Provides 'Mystery Box' for APTA International Rail Rodeo

By RUSSELL HOMAN

(June 10, 2005) This year's APTA International Rail Rodeo – held last Saturday in Pittsburgh – featured a new event created by Metro's Rail Fleet Services Instruction Department.

Developed specifically to test the diagnostic skills of rail car maintainers, the "Mystery Box" event featured 47 test points for 20 different electronic components.

Using a multi-meter, contestants had to discover which of the 47 test points could be connected to the 20 components in the metal box.

Inside the box were resistors, diodes, LEDs, capacitors, transistors, a bridge, and an opto-Isolator chip. Each contestant was given a maximum of 15 minutes to complete the Mystery Box event.

Of 14 transit agencies competing, New York City Transit and Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority (SEPTA) scored the highest on the Mystery Box, with tying scores of 70 points each.

Because Metro provided the Mystery Box, the Los Angeles team did not compete in the event.

In addition to the Mystery Box, this year's International Rail Rodeo featured nine events to test the maintainers' troubleshooting skills. They included a written test, air conditioning, defective component, circuit building, torque wrench, wheel gauge, mechanical measuring, and tools and fasteners.

Metro's team of Rail Fleet Services specialists Ronnie Burt, Eric Czintos and Rafaele Mastrangelo placed second behind the Maryland Transit Administration (MTA).

In the operator's competition, Metro's team of Tu Phan and Ruben Ramirez placed third. Together, the Metro Rail team placed second, overall, in the International Rail Rodeo.

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