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Bikes, food and festivities are major attractions at 2005 Raildeo Celebration.



PHOTO: ARLENE LIM

Food, Family and Fun Highlighted 2005 Raildeo Celebration

By PERRY WILLIAMS

(June 30, 2005) Food, family, festivities and fun highlighted the Metro Raildeo Celebration, June 25, at Metro Red Line Division 20.

Employees gathered not only to recognize the rail operators and maintenance teams, they also came to enjoy fellowship with one another in a social atmosphere outside of the workplace.

With both the local and international competitions already over, everyone had a chance to enjoy the music, food and games, rather than worry about their events.

Comfortable temperatures made the environment conducive for families to enjoy the bright, cloudless day.



PHOTOS BY BILL HEARD

Sparkling in the bright morning sun, 25 motorcycles were on display at Division 20. On cue, members of the "Just Us" motorcycle club revved up an ear-thumping "rolling thunder."

Upbeat music played by DJ Reggie Winans kept the crowd on their feet, while their mouths watered at the smell of barbeque provided by Rembrandt Catering.

Danced the afternoon away

Most enjoyed the music by Winans and the band, Upward Mobility, which rotated from smooth jazz to salsa. Many mouthed the words to the songs, while others danced the afternoon away.

"I'm having fun enjoying the music, and good company," said Rail Operator Ramon Alvarez who finished third in the local competition.

Music wasn't the only thing that filled the air; the aroma of the barbeque was unmistakable – BBQ ribs, chicken, links, potato salad, beans. For the kids, hot dogs, and hamburgers.

Children were kept busy at several activities. An inflatable jumping house occupied their time and energy.

The Metro Experience mobile theater, a virtual reality mini-movie designed to teach youth about rail safety, also served as entertainment and education. The theater travels to community fairs and arts festivals, and has reached more than 1.2 million viewers.

Maintenance tours

Tours of the Metro Red Line maintenance facility were provided by Manuel Precie, assistant manager of the Metro Red Line.

An interesting treat for those in attendance at the Raildeo Celebration was the display of motorcycles.

Some of the bikes were owned by members of the "Just Us" motorcycle touring club. The club was organized so that Metro



Two-year-old Kelsey Williston, granddaughter of Rail Fleet Services Manager George Kennedy, had a great time bouncing in the Jumping House.



The smell of barbecue wafting over the Division 20 yard drew a long line of hungry Raildeo Celebration participants for ribs, hot links, burgers, beans and potato salad.



"It goes where I want to go, when I want to go," said TOS Jerome Humphries, as he wiped dust specks off his 2001 Harley-Davidson during the Raildeo Celebration motorcycle show. Humphries is president of "Just Us," a motorcycle touring club of mostly Metro employees and their families. Recently returned from a trip to Santa Maria, the club next ventures to Tahoe, Reno, Virginia City and Carson City, Nev.

employees and friends who share the hobby could take trips together and enjoy their bikes.

"The event overall was a success," said Community Relations Manager Wilbur Babb. "This is recognition for many of our employees who are on the front lines for Metro." -- *Arlene Lim contributed to this story.*

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