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Metro Rail Celebration - 2006



Honored for their second-place standing in the maintenance event at the 2006 APTA International Rail Rodeo were, from left, rail maintenance specialists Rafael Mastrangelo, Ronnie Burt and Eric Czintos and their coach, Russell Homan. Joining them are, rear row, Deputy Executive Officer Dave Kubicek and General Manager Gerald Francis. Below, Metro Rail Rodeo 2006 winner, Operator Vicky Maes-Melendez, center right, also led Metro's operator team at the APTA Internationals. With her, from left, are Deputy Executive Officer Melvin Clark, Rail TOS Esther Pippins and General Manager Gerald Francis. Not shown is Maes-Melendez's teammate, Tu Phan, or Robert Rodriguez, who placed third in the local event.



Photos by Bill Heard

Metro's Rail Celebration Was Fun for the Whole Family

By Sarah Winfrey and Reina V. Slutske

(June 26, 2006) Metro Employees and their families enjoyed a day in the sun, last Saturday, at Metro's Rail Operations Celebration at Division 20.



"I will repeat!" Rail Operator Vicky Maes-Melendez shouts as she celebrates her win in this year's Metro Rail Rodeo.

Families enjoyed presentations by the Los Angeles Fire Department, Los Angeles Sheriff's Department, and the "Just Us" Motorcycle Club. Lunch was provided by El Cholo Restaurant.

Local winners of the 2006 Metro Rail Rodeo were announced and given plaques for their participation and for representing Metro at the APTA International Rail Rodeo in New York City.

Taking second place in the maintenance competition at the International event were rail maintenance specialists Ronny Burt, Eric Czintos and Rafaele Mastrangelo.

Rail operators Vicky Maes-Melendez and Tu Phan, who competed in the operators' event at the Internationals, and local Rodeo runnerup, Robert Rodriguez, also

were honored during the family day celebration.

Division 20 employees and supervisors got involved in preparing the yard for festivities, which were open to all Metro employees and their families.



Chivas soccer team cheerleaders Jessica, left, and Violeta sign autographs for the kids.

'Brings us all together'

"It's worth it because it brings together all of us together," said Victor Valenzuela, a rail operations supervisor at Division 20.

The "Just Us" club brought their bikes in for a classic motorcycle show and competition. The club has 50 members, 15 of whom are Metro employees, including Arnold Johnson, vice resident and one of the seven founding members of the club.

The female members of the "Just Us" Motorcycle Club are, front row from left, Kendra Bruce, Cindy Johnson, Stephanie Lee and Betty Davis. Back row, from left, Ann Matulin, Helen Taylor and Artlette Murray.



"It's about enjoying life," Johnson said of the club, which rides to places like Reno, Mexico and Las Vegas.

The audience chose the winners of the motorcycle competition by a show of hands. In first place was Lorenzo "Shorty Mac" Belser; second place, Helen "Lady Teal" Taylor; and in third place Gabriel Pedraza.



Damion Joe Moore, 4, son of Valerie Harrison-Boyer of Community Relations, and, at right, Nicholas Martinez, 7, son of Signal Inspector Rafael Martinez, get a firefighter lesson from fireman Steve Lopez of LA City Fire Department Battalion 1, Fire Station 9.

The Sheriff' Department brought a helicopter and a Sheriff' Camaro patrol car for the kids to sit in; and a Segway human transporter for people to ride. Two dogs from the Sheriff's Department, Debra and Hero, as well as Metro Security's dog, General Grant, came along to visit as well.



It was a warm, sunny day for the Metro Rail Operations Celebration.

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