

[Metro.net](#) (web)

## Resources

► [Safety](#)

► [Pressroom](#) (web)

► [Ask the CEO](#)

► [CEO Forum](#)

► [Employee Recognition](#)

► [Employee Activities](#)

► [Metro Projects](#)

► [Facts at a Glance](#)  
(web)

► [Archives](#)

► [Events Calendar](#)

► [Research Center/ Library](#)

► [Metro Classifieds](#)

► [Bazaar](#)

## Metro Info

► [30/10 Initiative](#)

► [Policies](#)

► [Training](#)

► [Help Desk](#)

► [Intranet Policy](#)

## Need e-Help?

Call the Help Desk  
at 2-4357

[Contact myMetro.net](#)

Editor's Note: Russell Homan is a senior equipment maintenance instructor who coaches the Metro Rail Rodeo maintenance specialist team. This is his account of the team's recent visit to New York City MTA's Coney Island Repair Shop in Brooklyn, where the APTA International Rail Rodeo maintenance competition was held. Metro's maintenance team placed second in the International event.

Photos by Russell Homan



Eighteen teams from the United States and Canada competed in the maintenance competition at the APTA Internationals. Metro's maintenance team took second place, finishing behind New York City Transit. Metro's team is in the back row, left.

## Metro Maintenance Team Saves Event at APTA International Rail Rodeo

By RUSSELL HOMAN

(July 6, 2006) This year's APTA International Rail Rodeo in New York City featured events for maintenance teams that were to have been provided by rail equipment vendors – unfortunately, two of the vendors went out of business, jeopardizing the competition.

So, the Metro Rail team stepped up and took over an event that included a circuit troubleshooting board. After figuring out how the vendor was trying



to challenge competitors in the event, the Metro team developed a new set of problems – or faults – and inserted them into the board.

The Metro Rail maintenance team, from left Rafaele Mastrangelo, Ronnie Burt and Eric Czintos, waits for a new event to start.

The LA team also created a PowerPoint presentation that showed the contestants how the troubleshooting board functioned and what components were being used to make the circuit work.



The Sacramento team competes on the LA-sponsored event. Team members had only 15 minutes to figure out the three defects that prevented the circuit from working properly.

The competition was held at MTA's Coney Island Repair Shop in Brooklyn, New York which dates back to 1926 and occupies 75 acres. The shop is a major overhaul facility for 5,800 subway cars and the entire Staten Island Rapid Transit fleet.

A shop tour before the competition included the lifting of a complete subway car, via an overhead crane, off an old set of trucks – wheels,

motors and frame – to a new set of trucks on another track. The tour also included visits to the truck overhaul shop.



A rail car is hoisted onto a new set of trucks at New York City Transit's maintenance facility.

The motor overhaul shop is in a separate building and had just been renovated. Workers in the shop strip DC motors down to the frame, re-laminate and vacuum-impregnate them with new epoxy and bake them in an oven before they are repainted, resembled and load-tested.