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Some 75 traffic reporters packed the Saddle Ranch Chop House in Universal City Walk on Wednesday for the Golden Pylon Awards, transportation's equivalent of Hollywood's "Oscar."



Photos by Gayle Anderson

'Golden Pylon Awards' Honor Top Southland Traffic Reporters

- Ceremony is a prelude to Rideshare Week, Oct. 2– 6
- [More Photos:](#) Making the Scene at Saddle Ranch Chop House

By GAYLE ANDERSON

(Sept. 21, 2006) Southland transit agencies presented coveted Golden Pylon Awards to five TV and radio traffic reporters, Wednesday. Their careful reporting helps keep Southland traffic moving by promoting rideshare options like carpool lanes, said Alan Holmes, Ventura County Transportation Commission rideshare coordinator who served as master of ceremonies.

The awards were presented during a luncheon in Universal City by Metro, Orange County Transportation Authority, Riverside County Transportation Commission, San Bernardino Associated Governments and Ventura County Transportation Commission.



Richard Quintero, California Highway Patrol Officer, above, and Metro Traffic reporter Richard Santiago Jr. were two of the of the award. Five Golden Pylon winners were voted tops by their broadcasting peers.



Honored for their fast, accurate road condition reports and strategically placed promotion of rideshare options that help thousands of commuters avoid traffic snarls each day, are:

- Richard Quintero, California Highway Patrol Officer who reports for television stations Fox 11 and KMEX-34, and radio stations KWRN 1370AM, KFRN 1280AM and KWRN 1550AM.
- Rebecca Knowles, aka Toni Jordan, who reports for AirWatch/America, Clear Channel, KGGI FM, KMPC FM, KDL FM, KMYT FM, KTMQ FM, and KSGN FM.
- Mike Nolan, Pilot/reporter with Air Watch/America, Clear Channel, KFI/KOST
- Richard Santiago Jr., Metro Traffic, reporter who translates traffic reports into Spanish for several reporters.
- Lucie Hill, Metro Traffic, who reports for radio stations KTIE, KXCM, KQCM and KWVE

The "Golden Pylon" awards luncheon kicks off the Annual Rideshare

Week Oct. 2 – 6. Rideshare Week is a statewide campaign to reduce solo driving on the state’s congested streets and freeways.

Making the scene...



Event emcee Alan Holmes, a rideshare coordinator for Ventura County Transportation Commission, served up the awards in western-themed style.



Think: AirWatch America meets Clear Channel.



CHiPs - ready to roll when the traffic gets tough.



Meanwhile, back at the Metro Rideshare corral: Riverside County Transportation Commission's Robert Yates, second from left, joins up with Metro team, from left, Sr. Account Exec Liz Armijo, Metro Commute Services Director David Sutton, Sr. Account Exec Valerie Rader and Accounts Supervisor Sarah Zadok.