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## Dream Team

- Operator Mark Holland is six-time champion; mechanics team from Arthur Winston Division takes top trophy for third time. Veteran champions will represent Metro at APTA Internationals.

Photos by Gayle Anderson



Dream Team: From left, Frank Forde, Mark Holland, Rommel Vargas and Andrew Warren, Jr.

### SGV Division Operator Mark Holland and Arthur Winston Division Mechanics Warren, Vargas, Forde Nail Metro Bus Rodeo

- Stats: [The Results are in!](#)

By GAYLE ANDERSON

(Sept. 26, 2006) Operator Mark Holland and mechanics Andrew Warren Jr., Rommel Vargas and Frank Forde won the 2006 Metro Bus Rodeo, Sept. 23. They'll carry the agency's flag at the 2007 APTA Internationals set for next May in Nashville, Tenn.

This year's event was hosted by the San Gabriel Valley Service Sector and included a competition among the transportation managers from participating divisions. The managers' heart-stopping maneuvers on the obstacle course clearly illustrated the finer points of what it takes to operate a Metro bus and keep it on the road at the same time.



Transportation managers took a spin around the obstacle course, leaving Metro buses intact and a few cones and a couple of barrels none the worse for wear. From left, Mike Greenwood (Div. 9), Diane Frazier (Div. 2), Sonja Owens (Div. 1), Alva Carrasco (Div 6), Maria Reynolds (Div. 8), Cindy Karpman (Div. 18), and Dan Frawley (Div 3).

**Six-time champion**

In Saturday’s competition, San Gabriel Valley Division 9 operator and unprecedented six-time champion Mark Holland emerged victorious with a solid top score of 650 points. The champion edged out Crossroad Depot Division 2 Operator Luis Martinez, in second place with 630 points, and North Los Angeles Division 3 operator Juan Navarro, in third place with 615 points.

As Metro’s champion, Holland first represented the agency at the APTA International finals in 1988 in Montreal. Then, there was San Antonio in 1995, Orlando in 1999 and Philadelphia in 2001.



San Gabriel valley Division Operator Mark Holland cruises the car show after racking up 650 points to score his 6th championship.

During the 2003 event in Salt Lake City, Holland found himself competing against operators from across the U.S. and Canada while maneuvering over an unfamiliar and difficult obstacle course. He went over the time limit, but managed to capture third place. “I was fortunate to get it,” he recalls.

### Run-away score

Rodeo 2006 was the third Metro championship for the Arthur Winston Division team of Warren, Vargas and Forde, who posted a run-away score of 1,205 in the maintenance event. They bested by 385 points the Carson Division 18 team of Raymond Phung, Mina Ros and Luke Logan.



South Bay General Manager Dana Coffey, Deputy CEO John Catoe, mechanics' events organizer Steve Mullaly and event host San Gabriel Valley General Manager Jack Gabig share bragging rights with South Bay mechanics team, who scored 825 to take second place.

Maintenance Division 18's score of 825, however, was only 10 points up on the 815 turned in by the third-place Division 1 team of Javier Sora, David Klinkenborg and Jose Moya.

The Division 5 champs represented Metro at the 2003 international competition in Utah and again at the 2005 finals in Dallas.

Some 400 employees, their families and guests came out to Santa Anita Park for the annual event. The operator's competition involved 40 participants and was organized by TOS Frank Cecere of Metro San Gabriel Valley. The mechanics' events featured 11 teams and was organized by Sr. Equipment Maintenance Instructor Steve Mullaly. Maintenance Instructor Carlos Rojas organized the perennial favorites, the Car Show and Motorcycle exhibit. (Stay tuned: Details to follow.)

In the periphery of the main events were plenty of activities to keep everyone thrilled, happy and inspired: a spectacular car show and motorcycle exhibit, a fun zone for kids, a visit from the Sheriff's helicopter and an abundance of barbecue enjoyed in the shade of a tented picnic area.



The landing of the Sheriff's helicopter draws a crowd from across the vast parking lot at Santa Anita Racetrack.

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