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Competitor traverses obstacle course in Metro Roadeo 2006.

CEO Hotline



Photos: Gayle Anderson

Practice Rounds Begin for 2007 Metro Bus Roadeo

Employees, guests invited to attend Sept. 15 event

(Aug. 30, 2007) Some 25 bus operators showed up early, Thursday morning, for the first day of practice for the 2007 Metro Bus Roadeo, scheduled Saturday, Sept. 15, at Santa Anita Racetrack, Gate 4.

More than 200 already have signed up to participate in the practice sessions and more are expected. Roadeo organizer Frank Cecere and his core team have spent the past three days designing and setting up the course and preparing for the crowd of employees and guests who will attend the finals.



Organizer Frank Cecere stares down competitors on the course at Santa Anita Racetrack in 2006.

Winners of this year's event, which also features competition among operating division maintenance teams, will represent Metro at the APTA International Finals in Austin, Tex. In May, Metro's team won the Grand Champion Award at the International Finals in Nashville.

The Metro Roadeo for many years had been held at another racetrack location and Cecere noted, "We had a lot more challenges this year than we've had in the past as far as securing the area and fencing off the course."

Operators were able to register via the employee Intranet for the first this year and, to date, most registrations have been made on-line, Cecere said. Aurora Jackson, director of Operations Training, is working with the divisions to ensure that operators will be allowed to participate in the Roadeo.

Roadeo preliminary rounds are scheduled Sept. 5, 6, 7 and 8. Out of the preliminaries, 35 operators will qualify for the local finals.

The 32nd annual Metro's Bus Roadeo will be sponsored this year by the Gateway Cities Service Sector. Also working with the organizing group are Regina Chan, Gateway Cities administration and financial services manager, and Gwen Keene, a Human Resources systems analyst.

To reach Gate 4 at Santa Anita Racetrack, take the I-210 Foothill Freeway and exit at Santa Anita Avenue (Exit 32). Turn south on Santa Anita and right onto Huntington Drive. Bear left where the street splits with Colorado Place and continue on Huntington Drive to Gate 4.

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