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Judges keep Bus Operator maneuvers in accurate line of sight at 2007 Metro Bus Rodeo.

## Call for Judges: Here's your chance to get on the field for the annual Metro Bus Rodeo competition.

- **You be the judge:** The roar of the crowd - the thrill of the left-hand reverse, the events at this year's Rodeo will showcase the skills of some of the finest Operators and Mechanics in the transportation industry.

By GAYLE ANDERSON

(Aug. 20, 2008) Metro Westside/Central, this year's host of the 33<sup>rd</sup> annual Metro Bus Rodeo, is recruiting employees to act as judges for the preliminary Operator's competitions Sept. 10 -13, and the main event on Sept. 20.

The judges will observe 11 driving tests, ranging from serpentine turns to under control stops, plus close observations of safety habits, personal appearance and smoothness of operation.

The events require at least 40 judges per day, said organizer Gwen Keene. The tallies provided by the judges will determine this year's champions, who will represent Metro at the International Bus Rodeo set for May 2009 in Seattle, Wash.

**Wins by a cone -**  
Sometimes, victory comes within inches, as determined by a judge. John Roberts, DEO, Operations, here measures a 'judgement stop' on the obstacle course.

*Photos by Gayle*



Anderson

The position requires no special training, said Keene. "You don't have to be in Operations to qualify," she said, "just being a little adventurous will do." Although it's not exactly "Survivor Island," judges can expect to spend most of the time under an umbrella in the middle of Santa Anita's massive parking lot. The experience and the camaraderie make up for lack of pampering, Keene notes.

All events are held at the Santa Anita Race Track parking lot, Gate 6. The site is located just off Colorado Place in Arcadia. See [map](#) online. UTU and ATU personnel are not eligible to judge the event.

Typically, the competition begins at 8 a.m. and lasts until about 3 p.m. each day. Because the events occur during scheduled work shifts, employees must have their supervisor's approval prior to volunteering for the Rodeo.

Volunteer judges will receive a 2008 Rodeo baseball cap, shirt and lapel pin. Lunch will be provided during the preliminaries and the traditional BBQ lunch will be served at the final competition.

Volunteers must register prior to Friday, Aug. 29. Register online at on the [Metro Bus Rodeo](#) webpage or contact Gwen Keene at 922-7148 or e-mail [keeneg@metro.net](mailto:keeneg@metro.net).

Information: Contact Gwen Keene at (213) 922-7148 or Frank Cecere at (213) 725-7154.