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And they're off! No. 6 edges past the cones at a steady pace, ramping up for the barrel run, and putting the money on the sudden-stop nose at the 2008 Metro Bus Rodeo.

Metro South Bay to host popular Metro Bus Rodeo Sept. 26

By GAYLE ANDERSON

(June 23, 2009) Back by popular demand, the almost-cancelled Metro Bus Rodeo will be held Sept. 26.

The South Bay Sector will host the 2009 event, reports Metro South Bay GM Dana Coffey.

"Expect some good old Southern hospitality," said Coffey, who anticipates a family event pumped up by volunteers rather than scaled down by lack of funds.

"We're calling on Metro employees to volunteer to help make this another successful Rodeo year," she said.

As usual, the Rodeo will be held in the peripheries of the Santa Anita Race Track, seemingly the only place in town big enough to handle the bus obstacle course, the mechanic's arena of event tents and an expected 1,000 Rodeo fans, not to mention the family playground, information booths, a spectacular visit from the Sheriff's rescue helicopter and a massive barbecue picnic under a big top tent.

Operators will take the field for the preliminaries Sept. 16 -19.

Practice sessions will be available from Sept. 10 to Sept. 15, from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. But even before operators can turn the key, they must qualify according to criteria that requires a steady, good performance record with no avoidable accidents and no more than three miss-outs, a dispatcher's term for late.

Competitors and judges will be able to register online and check schedules at the [Rodeo](#) website on *myMetro.net* starting in August.

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.



Rodeo fans gather to watch mechanics beat the clock in trouble-shooting matches. Looking right out of the Indy 500, the stylish San Gabriel Valley mechanics team give the fans a photo op.



In the meantime, the Rodeo Committee is preparing for one of the best Bus and Maintenance Rodeo competitions in the industry, said South Bay Division 18 Transportation Manager Cynthia Karpman, who leads the committee.

Members include Coffey, Karpman, Alex DiNuzzo, Ken Matsuno, Myrine White, Demetrius Jones, Gary Shiroishi, Margaret Merhoff, Edward Castillo, Frank Cecere, Steve Mullaly, Gwendolyn Keene, Omark Holmes, Esther Carlstone, James Woodson, and Harold Torres.