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Judges keep Bus Operator maneuvers in accurate line of sight at 2008 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 the 34th Annual Metro Bus Rodeo will showcase the skills of some of the finest Operators and Mechanics in the transportation industry.

(Aug. 13, 2009) Metro South Bay, the host of the 34th annual Metro Bus Rodeo, is recruiting employees to act as judges for the preliminary Operator's competitions Sept. 16 -19, and the main event on Sept. 26.

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 2010 APTA International Bus Rodeo set for April 30 through May 4 in Cleveland.

**Adrift in a
sea of traffic
cones,** teams
of Rodeo
judges
monitor 11
driving tests
at umbrella-

shaded
stations set
up on the
Rodeo
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 2009 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 Monday, Aug. 31. Register online at on the [Metro Bus Rodeo](#) webpage or contact Gwen Keene at 922-7148 or e-mail keeneg@metro.net.

— from Gayle Anderson