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2009 METRO BUS ROADEO

Metro Employees & Friends Invited!

Families are invited to partake in transportation extravaganza of sport, feast and fun in the California sun. Maintenance competitions begin at 7:30 a.m. Bus Operators start on the Obstacle Course at 8:30 a.m. Trophies take the stage at 1 p.m.

Metro's Finest roll out Saturday in annual Bus Roadeo Competition

- Winners from the local event will defend Metro's national title next May at the American Public Transportation Association's competition in Cleveland, Ohio.

(Sept. 24, 2009) Showcasing the skills and expertise of some of the finest operators and mechanics in transportation, Metro will hold the 34th annual Bus Roadeo, Sept. 26, in search of the next round of champions to represent the excellence of Los Angeles public transit.

Balmy Southern California weather, clear skies and a big turn-out are expected for the popular event, which starts at 7:30 a.m. and ends with the trophy awards at 1 p.m.

Employees, who are invited and encouraged to bring their families to Santa Anita Park this Saturday, can expect a fun-filled day, said Metro South Bay General Manager Dana Coffey.

This year's Roadeo will feature a barbecue feast with all the trimmings, the popular car and motorcycle show, kid's playground activities and interactive exhibit booths, said organizing committee member Demetrius Jones.

Winners from the local event will defend Metro's national title next May at the American Public Transportation Association's competition in Cleveland, Ohio.



The home team advantage - from left, Arthur Winston Division 5 champion mechanics Andrew Warren, Jr., Rommel Vargas and Frank Forde and North Los Angeles Division 3 Operator Juan Navarro, who claimed victory at the 2008 Metro Bus Roadeo in Los Angeles, went on to Seattle to win the prestigious 34th APTA 2009 International Bus Roadeo held May 3.

Preliminary competitions held last week narrowed the Bus Operator field to 35 finalists from some 164 competitors.

Crossroads Division 2 Operator Luis Martinez enters the field in the number one spot. The top five eliminators include Martinez and operators Walter Ireheta, Herman Gavia, Erik Maldonado and Felipe Patlan-Gutierrez. Last year's Metro and national champion operator Juan Navarro, who emerged from the preliminaries in the top ten, remains a strong competitor.

The mechanics competition, which tests mechanics' abilities to troubleshoot mechanical problems and fix them quickly, will be held among three-member teams from participating operating divisions.

Although the Arthur Winston Division 5 mechanics team have won the Metro Roadeo five years running, this year's entry is a wildcard. Two of the team members - Andrew Warren Jr. and Rommel Vargas - have advanced to Central Instruction. It's now up to veteran Frank Forde to carry the banner into the competition and retain the championship for the Arthur Winston Division. But he's got help. Two more master mechanics — Enrique Perez and Danny Galindo — have joined the team with the intention to fill those sizable championship steel-toed boots left vacant by departing team members Warren Jr. and Vargas.

Returning to the original location in the vast Santa Anita arena, this year's Roadeo will be held on familiar territory at the Santa Anita Race Track parking lot, Gate 6. Directions, along with up-to-the-minute schedule of events, are online on myMetro.net at the [Bus Roadeo](#) pages.

"Those who compete in the preliminaries will get the official Roadeo hat, the belt buckle, a T-shirt and a lapel pin," according to Frank Cecere, assistant manager of Central



Instruction, who helps coordinate the event every year.

Click on map to go to [Bus Roadeo](#) site at myMetro.net for directions and schedule of events.

Previous winners of the local Roadeo have gone to the national competition and placed high in the rankings among the 90 or so transit agencies that compete every year.

— from Gayle Anderson