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Dream Team: From left, Blue Line Fleet Services Manager Brian Rydell, Maintainers Ronnie Burt and Eric Czintos, Operator José Arrias, Maintainer Glen Abraham, Red Line Fleet Services Manager Fred Kan, Maintainer coach Gary Dewater, sr. equipment maintenance instructor and APTA organizing committee member. Not pictured: Operator coach John Johnson, Rail Division assistant manager. Below, Operator Pam Parker-Ehrich is pictured here with Rail Division Transportation Manager Tom Jasmin.

Metro Rail equipment maintenance specialists team of Eric Czintos, Ronnie Burt, and Glen Abraham and coach Gary Dewater will travel to Vancouver to compete in the 18th annual APTA International Rail Rodeo in June. On the transportation side, top-scoring operator Jose Arrias and teammate Pam Parker-Ehrich, along with coach John Johnson, will carry the Metro flag.



Rail Rodeo champs to defend national title in Vancouver June 3

- Will the dream team pull off Metro's first three-peat?

(April 6, 2010) After securing top spots in the 2010 Metro Rail Rodeo held March 27, Metro Rail's dream team will be off to the APTA International Rail Rodeo in Vancouver June 3 to defend their two-years' running national championship title and bring home the gold in a competition that crowns the best rail operations in North America.

Sponsored by the American Public Transportation Association (APTA), the [2010 International Rail Rodeo](#) will be held June 3 through June 6 in Vancouver. More than 20 public transportation systems are expected to compete in the 2010 International Rail Rodeo competition.

The Rail operator team competition measures an operator team's professional customer service and operating skills, including knowledge of safety regulations, train equipment, wayside rules, regulations, and procedures. The Rail maintainer team competition is a test of the maintainer's skills and abilities.

Defending the title will be the champion Metro Rail equipment maintenance specialists team of Eric Czintos, Ronnie Burt, and Glen Abraham, who claimed the local title at the Metro Rail Rodeo held at the Green Line yard March 27.

Veteran competitors and Blue Line maintainers Ronnie Burt and Eric Czintos have teamed up every year since 2003, when they took first place in the International Competition held in San Jose. The champion maintainers duo, whose team won first place at the 2007 and 2008 APTA International competitions, teamed up with the Red Line's Abraham in 2003 and 2009.



Best in the land two years straight, champion Metro Rail equipment maintenance specialists team of Ronnie Burt, Eric Czintos, and Glen Abraham join high-scoring Green Line Operator José Arrias to defend Metro's solid gold title in Vancouver.

Top operator spot in the local competition was nailed by high-scoring Green Line Operator José Arrias. Competing for the first time in the local competition, Arrias is a 10-year employee. He joined rail operations three years ago after spending his first six years in Bus Operations. Arrias is backed by solid-scoring Gold Line Operator Pam Parker-Ehrich. Veteran Operator Ruben Ramirez, also on the Gold Line roster, placed a close third in the local competition.

Metro is the team to beat for the third year in a row. The Los Angeles Metro championship rail team took top honors at the 2009 American Public Transportation Association (APTA) International Rail Rodeo held at the Chicago Transit Authority yard in Skokie, Illinois. The previous year, the Metro team scored the prestigious Rail Transit Team Achievement Award at the 16th annual APTA International Rail Rodeo, held in San Francisco in 2008.

The repeat victory in 2009 made it a solid gold year for Metro, whose championship bus team won top honors in the APTA International Bus Rodeo for the second time in three years. The bus team travels to Cleveland at the end of this month to compete in the 2010 International Bus Rodeo hosted by the Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority.

-- from Gayle Anderson

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