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**Meet the Champs:** West Valley Division Operator Julio Flores Flores is joined in the winner's circle by the maintenance team from Arthur Winston Division, from left, Rommel Vargas, Frank Forde and Andrew Warren Jr.



Photos by Gayle Anderson

## Div. 8's Operator Flores, Div. 5 Maintainers Forde, Vargas and Warren Win 2007 Bus Roдео

- Team will represent Metro at APTA Internationals in Austin, Tex.
- [Just for Fun](#): Managers, UTU Officials Compete for Bragging Rights
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By JIMMY STROUP

(Sept. 18, 2007) West Valley Division 8 Operator Julio Flores almost missed his chance to compete in this year's Metro Bus Roдео. The starters called his name several times before Flores ran to the check-in with only moments to spare before they declared him a no-show.

"They gave me a last call, but I got here before they cut the time off," said Flores, who was enjoying the classic car show and trying to stay relaxed before competing.

Good thing for him that he made it in time. After all, Flores won the bus operator half of the Roдео by a fair margin, earning his first-ever victory after placing as high as third in previous competitions.



Object of this game is to back the bus between precisely placed cones without knocking anything over.

Flores was joined in the winner's circle this year by the maintenance team from Arthur Winston Division 5. Frank Forde, Rommel Vargas and Andrew Warren Jr. helped win the American Public Transportation Association Grand Championship for 2006. The Division 5 team has now won four of the last five years' local competitions.

"It feels wonderful to win again," Warren said. "We were hoping we would have a good outcome and we did. We're looking forward to representing Metro at the APTA internationals."

The APTA competition for 2008 – where Forde, Vargas, Warren and Flores will defend the agency's First Place title – will be in held in Austin, Tex. next May.



Metro Bus maneuvers through orange cones at Santa Anita Race Track.

### **Unprecedented turnout**

Estimates had this year's Roadeo attendance topping 700, a number that most reckoned as unprecedented. The crowd seemed to feel that the classic car show, family entertainment and competitions were superior in scope and size to previous years – and all at a new location that presented the team with some problems to overcome.

Though the Roadeo takes place at the Santa Anita Race Track every year, this year's competition was held at Gate 4 – normally the event is out of Gate 6, which is on the other side of the parking lot.

Alex Clifford, Gateway Cities Sector general manager, whose sector hosted

the event, said there were some challenges with the layout and some facilities. In the end, though, he said "the team we've come to rely on set this all up and it came together in a wonderful fashion."

San Fernando Valley Sector General Manager Richard Hunt acted as emcee (with assistance from his daughter, Jennifer), calling the play-by-play for the bus operator half of the competition as well as the just-for-fun manager and sector manager bus competitions.

By all accounts, the whole day went off without a hitch. Chief Operations Officer Carolyn Flowers attended the event, taking in the competitions right from the beginning of the day.



Chief Operations Officer Carolyn Flowers: "Plus! It's fun!"

"This is a wonderful event. It encourages our employees to hone their skills and it recognizes employees who are at the top of their form," she said. "Plus, it's fun."

Metro Board Director John Fasana was on hand and gave his congratulations to all those who competed.

"In terms of commitment to excellent customer service, this is one way in a friendly competition that really helps everybody focus on their skills and focus on the pride they have in the work they do," he said. "When you see a turnout like this, you can see that people have a lot of pride in the work they do at Metro."



Calling the shots: Gateway Cities GM Alex Clifford, Metro Board Member John Fasana with organizer Steve Mullaly, and organizer Frank Cecere get the trophies underway.

### Winners and runners-up

Winning operator Flores scored 626 of a possible 650 points. Sam Morales of Central City Division 1 – who's won the event several times in the past and is always a strong competitor – captured second place with 610.

Third place was awarded to Marcos Mejia-Portillo, also of Division 1, who gave Morales a run for his money with 608.

The winning maintenance team from Division 5 scored 1,085 of a possible 1,550 points. San Gabriel Valley Division 9 – with members Adrian Garcia, Eduardo Garcia and Armando Martinez – placed second with 775.

Third place went to Division 2 – with members Alfredo Cardenas, Andrew Filimaua and Edward Hernandez – who scored 675.

Thirty-five operators and 11 maintenance teams competed in this year's

event.

Results prepared by Steve Mullaly:

### 2007 Metro Bus Rodeo Bus Operator Obstacle Course Results

Finish	B/N	Operator	Div	Final Score 650 Max
1	16850	Flores, Julio	8	626
2	12699	Morales, Samuel	1	610
3	18310	Mejia-Portillo, Marcos	1	608
4	16821	Martinez, Luis	2	597
5	28090	Gavia, Herman	3	585
6	25827	Navarro, Juan	3	582
7	16349	Mota, Ramiro	2	581
8	16568	Acosta, Joe	3	575
9	34749	Patlan-Gutierrez, Felipe J	1	565
10	10245	Holland, Mark D	9	564
11	35340	Gonzalez, Juan A	3	561
12	18326	Valdez, Jesus B	2	541
13	28909	Serrano, Juan	8	538
14	18269	Martinez, Ricardo	9	536
15	29522	DeAngelis, Maximiliano	1	536
16	3270	Sia, Leoncio	9	519
17	25595	Guzman, Gabriel	10	517
18	18855	Escareno, Francisco	10	512
19	28185	Figueroa, Juan	15	491
20	29783	Ramirez, Cesar	10	487
21	28351	Obieta, Dean Louis C	15	486
22	35534	Zapata, Nelson F	10	486
23	12961	Pereira, Miriam L	15	480
24	28626	Wilbanks, Jeffery	2	473
25	29533	Lopez, Marcos	18	465
26	30089	Hernandez, Manuel	10	448
27	23978	Magana, Cesar	15	446
28	25425	Jordan, Guadalupe	3	442
29	8970	Ponce, Domingo	1	439
30	28958	Pasaphunthu, Nipon	3	426
31	2622	Barbosa, Joe	9	423
32	28130	Lopez, Edgardo	15	414
33	34338	Calles, Jose M	10	413
34	23508	Rivera, Hector	1	383
35	20817	George, Ricky D	1	368
36	29082	Contreras, Miquel	15	0

### 2007 Metro Bus Rodeo Mechanics Competition

Results prepared by Steve Mullaly

#### 1<sup>st</sup> Place - Division 05

Name	Badge
Andrew Warren Jr	11076
Rommel Vargas	16627
Frank Forde	27943

#### 2<sup>nd</sup> Place - Division 09

Name	Badge
Armando Martinez	27171
Eduardo Garcia	27454
Adrian Garcia	27649



**3<sup>rd</sup> Place - Division 02**

Name	Badge
Andrew Filimaua	17527
Edward Hernandez	27397
Alfredo Cardenas	27886

**4<sup>th</sup> Place - Division 01**

Name	Badge
Gus Sanchez	24713
Sergio Barron	19244
Watana Don Reiwtaevee	23193

**5<sup>th</sup> Place - Central Maint. Shops**

Name	Badge
Tim Hong	27685
Henry Ochoa	27040
Fernando Aguilar	27070

**6<sup>th</sup> Place - Division 10**

Name	Badge
David Klinkenborg	15519
Angel Feria	24794
Saul Sanchez	27899

**7<sup>th</sup> Place - Division 07**

Name	Badge
Baldemar Gonzalez	20338
Craig Daniel	23749
Glenn Buakong	15208

**8<sup>th</sup> Place - Division 15**

Name	Badge
Kirk Langmayer	3146
Ray Hilton	27482
Brad Pardo	24644

**9<sup>th</sup> Place - Division 08**

Name	Badge
Simon Agaronov	27399
Ha Nguyen	22413
Ivan Roldan	20662

**10<sup>th</sup> Place - Division 18**

Name	Badge
Luke Logan	5364
Mina Ros	17575
Raymond Phung	15126

**11<sup>th</sup> Place - Division 03**

Name	Badge
Cristobal Hurtado	27066
Nelson Rodriguez	19440
Wilson Aguinaldo	17676

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