

LAPD

The First EVOC Challenge

Police Dept. hosts its first-ever road course challenge for emergency vehicles, for charity.



Office Alex Penrith, Club Member, as he checks against the stopwatch.



A 2010 EVOC Challenge Class participants.



The crystal awards were partly sponsored by City Employees Club.



What not to do with the orange cone!



It's tough to watch and keep the "egg" on the cone during the "Marcia Brady" exercise.

Story by Arlene Herrero, Club Products Manager, and Sgt. Cristina Korne, LAPD; Photos by Angel Gomez, Club Member Services Manager

After months of planning and hard work, on April 22, the LAPD's Emergency Vehicle Operations Course (EVOC) unit hosted the first EVOC Challenge at the Davis Training Facility in Granada Hills. The event involved a number of public safety agencies, including the L.A. Sheriff's Dept., the San Diego Police Department, the Carlsbad Police Department, the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department, and of course, the LAPD. Through this event, the agencies involved were given an opportunity to network, share training ideas, engage in friendly competition, and help to raise money for Mothers Against Drunk Driving. Lunch was provided, and an awards ceremony closed the day. The event was partially sponsored by the Club. (Many of the LAPD EVOC instructors are Club Members.)

The Challenge consisted of four different track exercises. First was the "Marcia Brady Exercise," generated by Deputy R.J. Juarez of the Sheriff's Dept., and suggested by the famous episode of "The Brady Bunch." Officer Hemsworth, Chief Instructor, LAPD EVOC, ran with the idea and designed the course based on Deputy Juarez's idea. It involved two cars racing simultaneously on two different courses. Completing the exercise required the competitor to finesse the car to the finishing cone without knocking the softball off the cone.

"Bob's Bootleg" was designed by Police Officer III Robert Organ, an EVOC instructor for the LAPD. Performing a "J" turn was an option during the course, but all who competed in the exercise chose to perform the maneuver.

The last two exercises were the "Backing Turn Around" and the "Time Trial." The "Backing Turn Around" is a California Peace Officer Standards and Training mandatory exercise that all California EVOC instructors are required to teach to recruits going through the academy. The exercise was selected so that the EVOC instructors from the outside agencies could practice it ahead of time and were familiar with it by the time the competition took place.

The "Time Trial" consisted of five laps on a specific course marked on the track. The first lap was a warm-up. The following three laps were timed, and the final lap was a cool-down lap. To familiarize the competitors with the course, parade laps were driven by all. The sound of all those cars coupled with the acoustics of the track were amazing! It was like a mini NASCAR. V-Box was on site and captured all the drivers on camera by outfitting their equipment on the vehicles. This allowed each competitor to view their racing technique, and it also served as a memento for the event. There were no safety incidents on this exercise, or any of the other exercises.

LAPD Officers Alex Penrith and Marc Hemsworth placed first in the "Bob's Bootleg" event and the "Time Trial," respectively. Way to go, LAPD! Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department and the Los Angeles Sheriff's Department also walked away with awards.

Everyone involved in the planning and support of the event helped to make it a great success. Additionally, the event generated more than \$2,200 for MADD, with special thanks to LAPD League Director Lt. II Brian Johnson and the Eagle and Badge Foundation. After learning about the event, Lt Johnson approached the Eagle and Badge Foundation and explained the goals of the event. Fortunately, the Eagle and Badge Foundation believed in what the LAPD EVOC Unit was trying to accomplish and donated funds to MADD through our event to show their support.

The LAPD EVOC unit looks forward to growing the EVOC Challenge and has started planning for the second-annual challenge.



Team San Diego, representing the Regional Public Safety Training Institute.



Team Las Vegas Metropolitan Police.



Team Los Angeles County Sheriff's Dept.



From left: Alison Ashnault, P3; and Coleen Briggs, Sr. MA II, Retired, Club Member.



Las Vegas Metro PD speeds up to beat the stopwatch.



Fast turns create smoke on the asphalt.



Congratulations to the Las Vegas Metro PD.



Congratulations to the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Dept.



Congratulations to Officer Alex Penrith, Club Member, for taking first on "Bob's Bootleg."



Congratulations to Officer Marc Hemsworth, Club Member, for taking first on "Time Trial."



Team LAPD EVOC Instructors.



Carlsbad PD out in front.



Congratulations to Las Vegas PD for winning the team challenge.