

## TRAINING

### Rodeo Gets Support of Shipping Companies and Manufacturers Alike

Shipping companies definitely take notice of the training that occurs during the Port of Baltimore's annual Ro/Ro Rodeo. As Scott Senko, Area Operations Manager for NYK Line Baltimore, explained during this year's event in mid-May, "Any ro/ro [roll-on/roll-off] carrier has a vested interest in the quality handling of the cargo they're transporting."

For David E. Honor, Höegh Autoliner's General Manager-Baltimore Region, the interest was not only professional but personal. David watched from the registration tent as his 19-year-old son Tom, a member of International Longshoremen's Association (ILA) Local 1429, participated in the training for the first time.

Hopping from one large piece of construction, agricultural or forestry equipment to the next, Tom excitedly gathered the basic knowledge necessary to do his job safely and efficiently. "I'm walking away with the experience I need to get the work done," he said. "I love to be able to drive the cars and equipment on and off the ships."

As Maryland Port Administration (MPA) Deputy Director of Marketing Joseph M. Greco, Sr. explained, "It's an opportunity to have the longshoremen familiarize themselves with the equipment in order to reduce damage and keep production up."

This year's 16th annual Rodeo provided training for the usual 200 longshoremen over the course of two days. They were assisted by a record number of 40 technical specialists representing manufacturers that ranged from Caterpillar, Komatsu, Wirtgen and CLAAS to John Deere, AGCO, Massey Ferguson and Ponsse. "The



manufacturers are really supporting this event, so you know they see the value in it," Greco said.

Product Specialist Jonathan Hume with Case New Holland noted that not all equipment is created equal. "Even something as simple as how to release the park brake can be handled differently from machine to machine," said Hume, who was on hand with a New Holland



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