



COUNTDOWN 2009



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Full Throttle Series Schedule

COUNTDOWN TO 10 (Regular Season)

KRAGEN O'REILLY NHRA WINTERNATIONALS

Winners: D. Kalitta, Capps, Line

LUCAS OIL SLICK MIST NHRA NATIONALS

Winners: Brown, Capps, Coughlin

ACDELCO NHRA GATORNATIONALS

Winners: Dixon, Tasca, Line, Arana

O'REILLY NHRA SPRING NATIONALS

Winners: Schumacher, Force Hood, Krisher, Treble

SUMMITRACING.COM NHRA NATIONALS

Winners: Schumacher, Capps, Coughlin

SUMMIT RACING NHRA SOUTHERN NATIONALS

Winners: Lucas, Beckman, Edwards, Krawiec

O'REILLY NHRA MIDWEST NATIONALS

Winners: Brown, Worsham, Coughlin, Krawiec

NHRA THUNDER VALLEY NATIONALS

Winners: Schumacher, Worsham, Edwards

O'REILLY NHRA SUMMER NATIONALS

Winners: Dixon, Capps, Allen Johnson

UNITED ASSOCIATION ROUTE 66 NATIONALS

Winners: Massey, T. Pedregon, Coughlin, Guidera

UNITED ASSOCIATION SUPERNATIONALS

Winners: Dixon, T. Pedregon, Coughlin, Treble

SUMMIT RACING EQUIPMENT NHRA NATIONALS

Winners: Dixon, Beckman, Line, Hines

MOPAR MILE-HIGH NHRA NATIONALS

Winners: Brown, Capps, A. Johnson, Krawiec

NHRA NORTHWEST NATIONALS

Winners: Brown, Wilkerson, Edwards

FRAM-AUTOLITE NHRA NATIONALS

Winners: Brown, Wilkerson, Line, Hines

LUCAS OIL NHRA NATIONALS

Winners: Lucas, T. Pedregon, Anderson, Arana

TOYO TIRES NHRA NATIONALS

Winners: Dixon, Tasca, Coughlin, Krawiec

MAC TOOLS U.S. NATIONALS

Winners: Schumacher, Force Hood, Coughlin, Arana

COUNTDOWN TO 1 (Playoffs)

NHRA CAROLINAS NATIONALS

Winners: McClenathan, Hight, Edwards, Arana

O'REILLY SUPER-START NHRA FALL NATIONALS

Winners: Schumacher, Hight, Anderson, Arana

O'REILLY NHRA MID-SOUTH NATIONALS

Winners: Lucas, Arend, Line, Phillips

NHRA VIRGINIA NATIONALS

Winners: Bernstein, Worsham, Edwards

NHRA LAS VEGAS NATIONALS

Winners: Massey, Hight, Morgan, Hines

AUTO CLUB NHRA FINALS

Nov. 12-15 at Pomona (PSM)

A Photo Finish in TF


Hight, Edwards open big leads; Arana is closing in

Nine months ago, the biggest storyline entering the 2009 season revolved around Larry Dixon and Tony Schumacher.

In what was as compelling an offseason as the NHRA had seen in some time, decorated crew chief Alan Johnson parted ways with the Army team to create his own team with the backing of Sheikh Khalid bin Hamad Al-Thani.

Johnson brought most of the Army crew with him and he hired Dixon, who'd won two championships with NHRA icon Don "The Snake" Prudhomme, to take the seat.

The questions swirled as to how this would affect the balance of power in Top Fuel: Would Schumacher and the new Army team with crew chief Mike Green continue to dominate or



The Staging Lane

What's next: Auto Club NHRA Finals
When: Nov. 12-15, 2009
Where: Auto Club Raceway at Pomona
ON TV (ESPN2HD, ET): Qualifying highlights, Sat. (late night) at 10:30 p.m.-12:30 a.m.; Raceday (pre-race show), Sun. at 11 a.m.; Race, Sun. at 7 p.m.
Notable: This is the sixth race of the six-race NHRA Playoffs, the Countdown to 1 ... Robert Hight began the playoffs in 10th place, but he has gone 14-2 and won three of five races to all but clinch his first NHRA championship.

would AJ and Dixon assume the Alpha position in Top Fuel?

With one race left in the 24-race NHRA Full Throt-

tle Series season, it's as close to a toss-up as you can get: Schumacher and the Army team have 2,485 points; Dixon and the Al-Anabi team have 2,484.

And by no means out of the mix — lurking 48 points back — is Cory McClenathan and the FRAM team.

Schumacher and Alan Johnson delivered arguably the greatest single performance in NHRA history at the Auto Club Finals in 2006, the 4.428-second pass at dusk to win the race and set the national record.

Now AJ and Schumacher are on opposite sides of the starting line and it would seem only fitting that the two rivals should begin the race on opposite sides of the ladder and meet in a winner-take-all final for the 2009 world championship.

2009 NHRA FULL THROTTLE SERIES Countdown to 1 (5 of 6 races complete)

NOTE: The Top 10 drivers after the 18-race regular season qualified and had their points reset in 10-point increments (20-point bonus to the reg. season champion). (x)=Final Reg. Season pts position. **RED=Driver eliminated.**



TOP FUEL

Driver (Reg. Seas.)	Pts
1. Schumacher (3).....	2485
2. Dixon (2).....	-1
3. McClenathan (5).....	-48
4. Brown (1).....	-80
5. Bernstein (4).....	-102
6. Massey (6).....	-148
7. Lucas (7).....	-185
8. Langdon (8).....	-196
9. Kalitta (9).....	-215
10. Millican (10).....	-392

FUNNY CAR

Driver (Reg. Seas.)	Pts
1. Hight (10).....	2485
2. Force Hood (3).....	-105
3. T. Pedregon (1).....	-113
4. Beckman (5).....	-114
5. Capps (2).....	-127
6. Wilkerson (6).....	-132
7. Worsham (8).....	-187
8. Tasca (4).....	-191
9. J. Force (7).....	-217
10. Neff (9).....	-250

PRO STOCK

Driver (Reg. Seas.)	Pts
1. Edwards (3).....	2594
2. Anderson (4).....	-139
3. Line (2).....	-188
4. Stanfield (6).....	-246
5. Coughlin (1).....	-250
6. A. Johnson (5).....	-316
7. Gray (10).....	-327
8. Krisher (7).....	-331
9. K. Johnson (8).....	-379
10. Jones (9).....	-483

PSM (4/5 races)

Rider (Reg. Seas.)	Pts
1. Arana (3).....	2525
2. Krawiec (1).....	-54
3. Hines (2).....	-153
4. Smith (4).....	-191
5. Phillips (7).....	-237
6. Horne (5).....	-263
7. Stoffer (10).....	-312
8. Gann (9).....	-316
9. Treble (6).....	-357
10. Guidera (8).....	-400