



COUNTDOWN 2009



Volume III, Issue 2

Feb. 12, 2009

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

Feb. 20-22 at Phoenix

ACDELCO NHRA GATORNATIONALS

March 12-15 at Gainesville, Fla. (PSM)

O'REILLY NHRA SPRING NATIONALS

March 27-29 at Houston (PSM)

SUMMITRACING.COM NHRA NATIONALS

April 2-5 at Las Vegas

SUMMIT RACING NHRA SOUTHERN NATIONALS

April 16-19 at Atlanta (PSM)

O'REILLY NHRA MIDWEST NATIONALS

May 1-3 at St. Louis (PSM)

NHRA THUNDER VALLEY NATIONALS

May 15-17 at Bristol, Tenn.

O'REILLY NHRA SUMMER NATIONALS

May 29-31 at Topeka, Kan.

NHRA ROUTE 66 NATIONALS

June 4-7 at Chicago (PSM)

NHRA SUPERNATIONALS

June 11-14 at Englishtown, N.J. (PSM)

SUMMIT RACING EQUIPMENT NHRA NATIONALS

June 25-28 at Norwalk, Ohio (PSM)

MOPAR MILE-HIGH NHRA NATIONALS

July 10-12 at Denver (PSM)

NHRA NORTHWEST NATIONALS

July 17-19 at Seattle

FRAM-AUTOLITE NHRA NATIONALS

July 24-26 at Sonoma, Calif. (PSM)

LUCAS OIL NHRA NATIONALS

Aug. 13-16 at Brainerd, Minn. (PSM)

TOYO TIRES NHRA NATIONALS

Aug. 20-23 at Reading, Pa. (PSM)

MAC TOOLS U.S. NATIONALS

Sept. 2-7 at Indianapolis (PSM)

COUNTDOWN TO 1 (Playoffs)

NHRA NATIONALS

Sept. 17-20 at Charlotte, N.C. (PSM)

O'REILLY SUPER-START NHRA FALL NATIONALS

Sept. 24-27 at Dallas (PSM)

O'REILLY NHRA MID-SOUTH NATIONALS

Oct. 2-4 at Memphis, Tenn. (PSM)

NHRA VIRGINIA NATIONALS

Oct. 9-11 at Richmond, Va.

NHRA LAS VEGAS NATIONALS

Oct. 29-Nov. 1 at Las Vegas (PSM)

AUTO CLUB NHRA FINALS

Nov. 12-15 at Pomona (PSM)

Kalitta, Capps back on top

Each ends long winless streak with Winters Wallys

Doug Kalitta and Ron Capps had each waited more than a year for their "next" win so what was a couple more days, right?

The rain-plagued season-opener at Auto Club Raceway at Pomona didn't end until Tuesday, but the wait was worth it for Kalitta and Capps who were rewarded for the perseverance with season-opening wins.

Kalitta's was his first since Richmond 2007 (26 races); Capps's win was his first since St. Louis 2007 (40 races).

Kalitta's win was particularly poignant.

Not only was it the first win by a Kalitta since the death of his cousin Scott in Englishtown in June 2007, but it came in a dragster that included the very same cockpit that Scott sat in when he won the 2005 Winternationals.

The win completed a sort of family hat trick as well as now all three Kalittas — Connie, Scott and Doug —



The Staging Lane

What's next: Lucas Slick Mist NHRA Nationals

When: Feb. 20-22, 2009

Where: Firebird International Raceway

ON TV (ET): ESPN2; Qualifying highlights, Sunday at 12-2 a.m. (repeat at 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.); Race, Sunday at 7-10 p.m.

Notable: The race can't come soon enough for Larry Dixon's Al-Anabi team, which was shut out with a DNQ at its Pomona debut ... Tim Wilkerson also DNQ'd during the abbreviated qualifying at Pomona and will look to rebound in Phoenix.

have won the Winternationals (Connie won in 1967).

No less significant was the return to the Winner's Circle by Capps and ace tuner Ed McCulloch.

Capps qualified in the bottom half of the field, but had the quickest car in all four rounds of eliminations, highlighted by the 4.05 he

laid down in a tight semifinal win over Robert Hight's Auto Club Ford Mustang team.

So after leading for much of the 2007 season before slipping in the playoffs and for much of 2008, Capps is back on top of the standings to start the 2009 season.

The quest for Capps and McCulloch, however, is to be on top of the standings after the *second* Pomona race.

Capps has finished second three times (1998, 2000, '05) and his 26 wins make him the winningest Funny Car driver in history without a world championship.

It's yet another thing that Capps and Kalitta share in common.

Kalitta's win was the 31st of his career, making him the winningest driver in Top Fuel history without a world championship. And he has finished second three times as well. (2003, '04, '06).

2009 NHRA FULL THROTTLE SERIES STANDINGS

NOTE: The season consists of an 18-race regular season and a six-race playoff; the Top 10 drivers qualify for the playoffs.

TOP FUEL		FUNNY CAR		PRO STOCK		PS MOTORCYCLE (Final 08)	
Driver (Ws)	Pts	Driver (Ws)	Pts	Driver (Ws)	Pts	Rider (Ws)	Pts
1. Doug Kalitta (1)	110	1. R. Capps (1)	111	1. J. Line (1)	117	1. E. Krawiec	2,471
2. Antron Brown	-20	2. Jim Head	-19	2. G. Anderson	-19	2. C. Rivas (4)	-5
3t. Brandon Bernstein	-40	3. Robert Hight	-33	3. M. Edwards	-22	3. M. Smith (4)	-20
3t. Morgan Lucas	-40	4. Gary Densham	-38	4. Allen Johnson	-41	4. A. Hines (2)	-137
5t. Cory McClenathan	-60	5. Del Worsham	-54	5. J. Coughlin	-63	5. A. Sampey	-161
5t. Steve Chrisman	-60	6. A. Force Hood	-55	6. Johny Gray	-65	6. C. Ellis (1)	-187
5t. Tony Schumacher	-60	7. Bob Tasca	-57	7. V. Gaines	-65	7. S. Johnson (2)	-188
8. 9 tied at	-60	8. Jack Beckman	-58	8. Jim Yates	-65	8. C. Treble (1)	-201
		9. John Force	-76	9. Warren Johnson	-83	9. K. Stoffer	-304
		10. Tony Pedregon	-77	10. Two tied at	-84	10. M. Guidera (2)	-315

Bold-regular season champion.