



# COUNTDOWN 2009



Volume III, Issue 3

Feb. 23, 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

Winners: Brown, Capps, Coughlin

#### 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)

# Ace's Up to Start 2009

## After winless 2008, NAPA team wins two straight

Maybe this will be the year.

It's early, very early, but arguably the most accomplished crew chief-driver combination in NHRA history to have never won a championship is off to a blazing start.

Crew chief Ed "Ace" McCulloch and driver Ron Capps have tuned and steered the NAPA Dodge Charger to back-to-back wins to start the season.

It all adds up to a 97-point cushion over second-place Robert Hight in the Auto Club Ford Mustang and Del Worsham in the Al-Anabi Toyota Solara.

But more than the early lead in the race for the 20-point bonus that is awarded to the regular-season champion, the two wins provide a huge psychological boost to a team that muddled through a winless 2008.



### The Staging Lane

**What's next:** ACDelco Gatornationals

**When:** March 12-15, 2009

**Where:** Gainesville Raceway

**ON TV (ET):** Qualifying highlights, Sunday at 2-4 a.m. (on ESPN2); Race, Sunday at 3-6 p.m. (on ESPN)

**Notable:** This will be the 40th running of the Gatornationals ... The Pro Stock Motorcycle class will be making its 2009 debut at the Gatornationals ... Warren Johnson's nine wins in Gainesville are the most all-time

In fact, before his win at Pomona, Capps had endured a 40-race winless stretch dating back to St. Louis 2007.

So the importance of these wins for the NAPA

team, while they may not have a direct impact on an eventual NHRA Full Throttle Series world championship, cannot be understated.

Meanwhile, there were a handful of other drivers who stirred things up at the Lucas Oil Slick Mist NHRA Nationals.

Larry Dixon in Top Fuel and Mike Neff in Funny Car made the biggest moves of the week, each jumping well inside the Top 10 after a DNQ (for Dixon) and a first-round loss (for Neff) at Pomona.

Tim Wilkerson, who dominated the headlines during his Cinderella quest for the 2008 Funny Car title, also rebounded nicely from a DNQ by winning two rounds and jumping up to within three points of the Top 10.

Wilkerson is driving a Ford Mustang this season.

## 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. Antron Brown (1) .....	206	1. R. Capps (2) .....	229	1. J. Line (1) .....	171	1. E. Krawiec .....	2,471
2. B. Bernstein .....	164	2t. Robert Hight .....	132	2. J. Coughlin (1) .....	169	2. C. Rivas (4) .....	-5
3. Doug Kalitta (1) .....	163	2t. Del Worsham .....	132	3. G. Anderson .....	155	3. M. Smith (4) .....	-20
4. T. Schumacher .....	127	4. Mike Neff .....	129	4. M. Edwards .....	153	4. A. Hines (2) .....	-137
5. Morgan Lucas .....	124	5. Jim Head .....	124	5. Allen Johnson .....	132	5. A. Sampey .....	-161
6. Larry Dixon .....	88	6. Bob Tasca .....	107	6. Kurt Johnson .....	127	6. C. Ellis (1) .....	-187
7. Spencer Massey .....	85	7. Jack Beckman .....	105	7. Greg Stanfield .....	104	7. S. Johnson (2) .....	-188
8. Shawn Langdon .....	83	8. Gary Densham .....	104	8. Ron Krisher .....	103	8. C. Treble (1) .....	-201
9. C. McClenathan .....	82	9. A. Force Hood .....	88	9. Jim Yates .....	84	9. K. Stoffer .....	-304
10t. David Baca .....	62	10. Matt Hagan .....	84	10. Johnny Gray .....	83	10. M. Guidera (2) .....	-315
10t. Joe Hartley .....	62						
12t. Del Cox .....	-1	11. Tim Wilkerson .....	-3	11. Warren Johnson .....	-18		
12t. Urs Erbacher .....	-1	12. John Force .....	-13	12t. David Beckley .....	-19		
14. Steve Chrisman .....	-2	13. Tony Pedregon .....	-16	12t. Larry Morgan .....	-19		
15. Clay Millican .....	-20	14t. Jeff Arend, Cruz Pedregon, Jerry Toliver .....	-21	12t. Rickie Jones .....	-19		
				15. Tom Hammonds .....	-20		