



# 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

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.

#### UNITED ASSOCIATION ROUTE 66 NATIONALS

June 4-7 at Chicago (PSM)

#### UNITED ASSOCIATION 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)

# Beckman climbs ladder

## He moves up from 7th to 2nd with first win of 2009

Warren Johnson certainly deserves a mention for being the only driver in any of the four classes to move into the Top 10 at Atlanta, but the big move was unquestionably made by Jack Beckman.

With Tim Wilkerson and John Force going rounds behind him, an early exit could have put Beckman in a precarious position approaching the summer months.

No problem.

Beckman, who drives the Valvoline/Mail Terminal Services Dodge Charger for Don Schumacher Racing, proceeded to cut a swath through the Ford Mustangs — he beat Wilkerson and three John Force Racing cars — en route to winning his first race of 2009.

In the process, he leaptfrogged five drivers to move up from seventh place all the way to second place.



### The Staging Lane

**What's next:** O'Reilly

NHRA Midwest Nat'l's

**When:** May 1-3, 2009

**Where:** Gateway International Raceway

**ON TV (ESPN2, ET):** Qualifying highlights, Sat. at 8 p.m.; Raceday (pre-race show), Sunday at 11 a.m.; Race, Sunday at 7 p.m.

**Notable:** A year ago in St. Louis, John Force collected his milestone 1,000th round win; this year, Larry Dixon will arrive in St. Louis one round win shy of reaching the 500 milestone.

Beckman's not the first and not likely the last driver in Funny Car to make a big move like this with a big week.

There's no guarantee it will stay this tightly packed throughout the season, but for now the Funny Car

class is as good as it gets.

A full third of the way through the 18-race regular season, just 70 points — less than four rounds of racing — separate 11th-place Tim Wilkerson from fourth-place Tony Pedregon.

And that doesn't even consider 12th-place Cruz Pedregon, who surely figures to be a factor as the season evolves.

It will no doubt be a frantic race to the finish line in Indianapolis on Labor Day weekend as the drivers on the Funny Car bubble battle for the final couple of play-off berths.

Last season, a seventh-place finisher in the regular season — Eddie Krawiec — won a championship so there's evidence that if you get in the NHRA postseason you can certainly be a championship contender.

## 2009 NHRA FULL THROTTLE SERIES STANDINGS (6 Races Complete)

**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		PSM (3/17 races)	
Driver (Ws)	Pts	Driver (Ws)	Pts	Driver (Ws)	Pts	Rider (Ws)	Pts
1. T. Schumacher (2).....	487	1. Ron Capps (3).....	464	1. Jeg Coughlin (2).....	524	1. Matt Smith.....	270
2. Antron Brown (1).....	448	2. Jack Beckman (1).....	395	2. Jason Line (2).....	494	2. Andrew Hines.....	230
3. Br. Bernstein.....	425	3. Force Hood (1).....	394	3. Mike Edwards (1).....	461	3. Hector Arana (1).....	226
4. C. McClenathan.....	396	4. Tony Pedregon.....	365	4. Greg Anderson.....	403	4. Eddie Krawiec (1).....	224
5. Morgan Lucas (1).....	379	5. Matt Hagan.....	356	5. Allen Johnson.....	347	5. Doug Home.....	219
6. Larry Dixon (1).....	368	6 Del Worsham.....	327	6. Greg Stanfield.....	336	6. Craig Treble (1).....	184
7. Shawn Langdon.....	301	7. Bob Tasca (1).....	321	7. Ron Krisher (1).....	292	7. Shawn Gann.....	156
8t. Doug Kalitta (1).....	288	8. John Force.....	310	8. Kurt Johnson.....	282	8. Karen Stoffer.....	142
8t. Sp. Massey.....	288	9. Robert Hight.....	305	9. Rickie Jones.....	252	9t. Matt Guidera.....	136
10. Joe Hartley.....	250	10. Mike Neff.....	305	10. Warren Johnson.....	236	9t. Steve Johnson.....	136
11. Clay Millican.....	-89	11. Tim Wilkerson.....	-10	11. Larry Morgan.....	-5	11t. Michael Phillips.....	-39
12. Terry Haddock.....	-115	12. Cruz Pedregon.....	-48	12. Johnny Gray.....	-24	11t. Wesley Wells.....	-39
13. David Baca.....	-123	13t. Jim Head.....	-118	13. Jim Yates.....	-47	13. Junior Pippin.....	-41
14. Troy Buff.....	-125	13t. Jerry Toliver.....	-118	14. Scott Spiess.....	-51	14. Angie McBride.....	-50
15t. Cox, Urbacher.....	-126	13t. Jeff Arend.....	-118	15. Tom Hammonds.....	-68	15. Mike Berry.....	-64