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#### **2003 North Central season set to unfold**

One of the most ambitious schedules in the history of the North Central Division is set to unfold at Gateway Int'l Raceway with the 11th annual running of the NHRA Spring Sportsman Challenge National Open April 5-6.

Five of this season's 23 NHRA POWERade Drag Racing Series national events will take place here in the division, and we will feature six NHRA Lucas Oil Drag Racing Series Finals, Sept. 12-14 at Indianapolis Raceway Park, will include the division championship for Jr. drag racers.

Other National Open events include the 17th annual NHRA SportsNational Open at Beech Bend Raceway Park, the 29th annual Doorslammer National Open at Ohio Valley Raceway, and the 12th annual VP Racing Fuels

events. The NHRA Summit Racing Series Fall Classic National Open at Indianapolis Raceway Park.

> The NHRA Jeg's Super Quick Series will celebrate its 15th season with a 10-race schedule. The series will kick off with a special 64-car qualified field April 5-6 at Gateway, and Windy Hollow Raceway Park will host a non-points invitational in June.

A complete 2003 schedule is listed inside.

### **Banquet honors champions**

NHRA Division 3 honored its 2002 champions at the annual Land of the Winners Awards Banquet Jan. 11 at the Indianapolis Sheraton Hotel & Suites, Nearly 500 racers, fans, and track officials attended.

In addition to the champions of the 2002 NHRA Lucas Oil Drag Racing Series, NHRA Summit Racing Series, NHRA Jeg's Super Quick Series, and NHRA Jr. Drag Racing League, others received special awards during the evening.

Russ Lindert, the 2002 NHRA Lucas Oil Drag Racing Series Top Alcohol Dragster champion, was named the Winners Person of the Year. Chuck Cheeseman (Pro Sportsman), Dustin Richardson (Sportsman)



Emcee Leo Taugher, far left, and Division Director Jay Hullinger congratulated the Division 3 Comp championship team of, from left, Rey Argenta, Steve Ambrose, and Bob Huettman, who also was voted Sportsman Mechanic of the Year.

and Les Belle (E.T. Bracket) were voted Drivers of the Year in their respective divisions. Cheeseman was also voted the Pro Sportsman Mechanic of the Year, and Bob Huettman was honored as the Sportsman Mechanic of the Year. Beech Bend Raceway Park was voted the NHRA Lucas Oil Drag Racing Series Track of the Year, and Kil-Kare Dragway was chosen as the NHRA Summit Racing Series Track of the Year. Pam Lobb of Wabash Valley Dragway was recognized as the National DRAGSTER Contributor of the Year, and National Trail Raceway received National DRAGSTER's Be A Winner, Be A Member Top Track honor.



Russ Lindert, center, earned his first championship in Top Alcohol Dragster after more than 40 years in the sport.







Look for these special events coming to an **NHRA** member track near you!

# NHRA Jeg's Super Quick **Series set for 15<sup>th</sup> season**



Bo Boles won the 2002 Jeg's Super Quick Series championship in his blown draaster.

The 15<sup>th</sup> annual season opener of the North Central Division's Jeg's Super Quick Series at Gateway Int'l Raceway will feature a 64-car field, a first in the series' history. Another first for the series will be a special non-points invitational event at Windy Hollow Raceway Park June 7.

The NHRA Jeg's Super Quick Series has established itself as not only the longest-running touring eighth-mile racing program, but also one of the country's premier competitions.

The Spring Sportsman Challenge XI National Open at Gateway in Madison, III., April 5-6 will be the only event in the 10-race 2003 series with an expanded 64-car field. The remaining eight points races will feature the traditional 32-car qualifying ladder.

Windy Hollow Raceway Park in Owensboro, Kv., hosted the series' first event in June 1989 and this year will host the first Jeg's Super Quick Invitational June 7. The non-points event will feature some of the top competitors in the series.

Other races on the 2003 trail will be at Ohio Valley Raceway, Louisville, Ky., May 10; the 17th annual NHRA SportsNational Open at Beech Bend Raceway Park, Bowling Green, Ky., May 24; London Motorplex, London, Ky., July 19; Kil-Kare Dragway, Xenia, Ohio, July 26; Chandler Motorsports Park, Chandler, Ind., Aug. 9; Bunker Hill Dragstrip, Bunker Hill, Ind., Aug. 16; Indianapolis Raceway Park, Clermont, Ind., Oct. 11-12; and National Trail Raceway, Columbus, Ohio, Oct. 18.

More added spice will come Oct. 11 when the season's top eight qualifiers, based on points to that time, will once again match up in the Jeg's Shootout at Indianapolis Raceway Park. The special race within a race will be run in similar fashion as the popular Budweiser Shootouts for Top Fuel and Funny Car racers, the NHRA King Demon Crown for Pro Stockers, and the K&N Filters Pro Bike Klash. Shootout eliminations will be contested during Saturday qualifying sessions of the IRP Fall Classic National Open.

The Jeg's Super Quick Series has always featured a wide variety of dragsters, altereds, and doorslammers qualifying on a 4.50 eighth-mile index with dial-in handicaps in eliminations using a five-tenths full Tree. Full-bodied cars will continue to receive a .20-second weight performance allowance during qualifying to make it more equitable for them to qualify against the lighter dragster and open-wheeled competitors. The qualifying adjustment has been used in the series since 1997.

A racer's six best finishes of the nine points races will automatically be counted toward the division championship. The Jeg's Super Quick division champion will receive \$2,000, an NHRA trophy, Super Quick Gold Card, and champion's jacket at the annual North Central Division Awards Banquet. The runner-up will be awarded \$1,000, and the third-place finisher will earn \$500. Each of the top 10 finishers will receive a special jacket.

Jeg's Automotive Inc., with world headquarters in Delaware, Ohio, is a leading supplier of automotive and auto racing parts and equipment. In addition to sponsorship of the Jea's Super Quick Series, the high-performance mail-order giant sponsors the NHRA Jeg's Allstars event in the NHRA Lucas Oil Drag Racing Series. The company is the primary sponsor of Pro Stock cars driven by Jeg Coughlin Jr., the reigning NHRA POWERade Drag Racing Series champion, and Troy Coughlin. Brothers Mike and John compete in several different categories in the NHRA Lucas Oil Drag Racing Series.

For more information on the 2003 NHRA Jeg's Super Quick Series, call the North Central Division office, (765) 689-8727, or log on to www.nhradiv3.com.

### **NHRA North Central Division 2003 special events schedule**

| April 5-6       | NHRA Spring Sportsman Challenge XI<br>NHRA Jeg's Super Quick Series (bonus 64-car field)<br>Gateway Int'l Raceway, Madison            |
|-----------------|---|
| April 25-27     | NHRA Lucas Oil Drag Racing Series<br>Route 66 Raceway, Chicago  |
| May 10          | NHRA Jeg's Super Quick Series<br>Ohio Valley Raceway, Louisville, Ky.   |
| May 16-18       | NHRA Lucas Oil Drag Racing Series Indianapolis Raceway Park, Clermont, Ind.   |
| May 24-25       | 17 <sup>th</sup> annual NHRA SportsNational Open<br>NHRA Jeg's Super Quick Series<br>Beech Bend Raceway Park, Bowling Green, Ky.      |
| May 29-June 1   | 6 <sup>th</sup> annual Lucas Oil NHRA Route 66 Nationals<br>Route 66 Raceway, Chicago   |
| June 7          | NHRA Jeg's Super Quick Invitational<br>(Non-points special event)<br>Windy Hollow Raceway Park, Owensboro, Ky.                        |
| June 12-15      | 39 <sup>th</sup> annual Pontiac Excitement NHRA Nationals presented by Summit Racing National Trail Raceway, Columbus                 |
| June 20-22      | Inaugural Holley National Hot Rod Reunion presented by DuPont Automotive Finishes Beech Bend Raceway Park, Bowling Green, Ky.         |
| June 20-22      | NHRA Lucas Oil Drag Racing Series<br>Mid-Michigan Motorplex, Stanton, Mich.   |
| June 27-29      | 7 <sup>th</sup> annual Sears Craftsman NHRA Nationals<br>Gateway Int'l Raceway. Madison   |
| July 19         | NHRA Jeg's Super Quick Series<br>London Motorplex, London, Ky.  |
| July 26         | NHRA Jeg's Super Quick Series<br>Kil-Kare Dragway, Xenia, Ohio  |
| Aug. 1-3        | NHRA Lucas Oil Drag Racing Series<br>Edgewater Sports Park, Cleves, Ohio  |
| Aug. 9          | NHRA Jeg's Super Quick Series<br>Chandler Motorsports Park, Chandler, Ind.  |
| Aug. 16         | NHRA Jeg's Super Quick Series<br>Bunker Hill Dragstrip, Bunker Hill, Ind.   |
| Aug. 22 – 24    | NHRA Lucas Oil Drag Racing Series Beech Bend Raceway Park, Bowling Green, Ky.   |
| Aug. 23         | NHRA Division 3 Top Sportsman Shootout<br>Beech Bend Raceway Park, Bowling Green, Ky.   |
| Aug. 27-Sept. 1 | 49 <sup>th</sup> annual Mac Tools U.S. Nationals<br>Indianapolis Raceway Park, Clermont, Ind.   |
| Sept. 12-14     | NHRA North Central Division<br>Summit Racing Series Finals<br>Indianapolis Raceway Park, Clermont, Ind.                               |
| Sept. 14        | North Central Division NHRA Jr. Drag Racing League Championships Indianapolis Raceway Park, Clermont, Ind.                            |
| Sept. 19-21     | NHRA Lucas Oil Drag Racing Series<br>National Trail Raceway, Columbus   |
| Sept. 25-28     | 3 <sup>rd</sup> annual NHRA Nationals<br>Route 66 Raceway, Chicago  |
| Oct. 4-5        | 29 <sup>th</sup> annual Doorslammer National Open<br>Ohio Valley Raceway, Louisville, Ky.   |
| Oct. 11         | NHRA Jeg's Super Quick Shootout Indianapolis Raceway Park, Clermont, Ind.   |
| Oct. 10-12      | 12 <sup>th</sup> annual NHRA Fall Classic National Open<br>NHRA Jeg's Super Quick Series<br>Indianapolis Raceway Park, Clermont, Ind. |
| Oct. 18         | NHRA Jeg's Super Quick Series final<br>National Trail Raceway, Columbus   |
| Jan. 17, 2004   | NHRA North Central Division awards banquet<br>Sheraton Indianapolis Hotel & Suites  |

## Top Sportsman added to 2003 North Central Division racing

Top Sportsman eliminator will be contested at each of the six NHRA Lucas Oil Drag Racing Series events in the division, as well as at the 29th annual Doorslammer National Open at Ohio Valley Raceway.

The first NHRA North Central Division Top Sportsman champion will be determined by a racer's best five finishes in his or her first eight events, including up to two out-of-division races. A unique points structure that will be a combination of both the NHRA Lucas Oil Drag Racing Series and NHRA POWERade Drag Racing Series will be used. Eliminations rounds will follow the points values from the Lucas Oil Drag Racing Series based on the appropriate field size, including home division points. In addition, qualifying points for the

top 16 qualifiers will be added following the system used in the POWERade Drag Racing Series. Top Sportsman will also be contested in the Southeast (Division 2) and South Central (Division 4) NHRA

The class will follow current Top Sportsman rules. Each Division 3 event will feature a qualified 32-car field with \$1,200 posted for the winner, \$600 for the runner-up, \$300 for fourthround finishers, and \$200 for third-round finishers. A number of major manufacturers have already signed up for contingency awards; a complete posting will be announced soon. NHRA Wally trophies will be presented to each event

A vear-end points fund will reward the top

three finishers; \$2,000, a Top Sportsman Gold Card, an NHRA Wally division champion trophy. and a jacket will be presented to the champion at the annual Land of the Winners Awards Banquet Jan. 17, 2004, in Indianapolis. The runner-up will pocket \$1,000, and the third-place finisher will receive \$500.

A bonus Top Sportsman Shootout, similar to the specialty races in NHRA's POWERade Drag Racing Series, will be featured at Beech Bend Raceway Park Saturday, Aug. 23. The bonus race within a race will match the season's top eight qualifiers based on qualifying points counted up to the Beech Bend event.

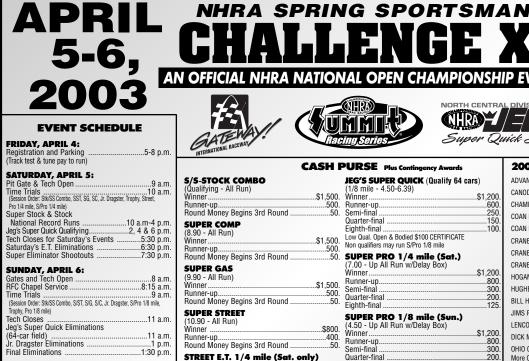
Complete details and Top Sportsman presenting sponsors will be announced soon.

## **National event entry deadlines**

Racers are reminded of the upcoming deadlines for entries to NHRA national events here in the division. Entries need to be in the Competition Department at NHRA headquarters by these dates. Transfers of accepted entries may be made up to the same deadline.

Lucas Oil NHRA Route 66 Nationals, Route 66 Raceway April 28 Pontiac Excitement NHRA Nationals, National Trail Raceway May 12 May 27 Sears Craftsman NHRA Nationals, Gateway Int'l Raceway Mac Tools U.S. Nationals, Indianapolis Raceway Park July 28 NHRA Nationals, Route 66 Raceway Aug. 25

Contestant Hotline newsletter online. Go to nhra.div3.com



\$60

JR. DRAGSTER (Each Day

**ENTRY FEES:** HRA Classes Car & Drive

Jeg's Super Quick Car & Driver

Pro 1/8 mile Sunday Car & Driver

Jr. Dragster Car & Driver each day

uper Pro 1/4 mile Saturday Car & Drive

Super Pro 1/8 mile Sunday Car & Driver.

| NTERNATIONAL RACEWAY  | Racing Series Sup                  | er Qu  | vick Series  |
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| PER STREET 30 - All Run) ner ner-up nd Money Begins 3rd Round REET E.T. 1/4 mile (Sat. or electronics) ner ner-up   | 400. Runner-up                     | 800.<br>300.<br>200.<br>125.<br>e (Sun.)<br>\$1000.            | JIMS PERFORMANCE LENCO EQUIPMENT O DICK MILLER RACINO OHIO CRANKSHAFT More Contingency Aw  SPECIAL NOTE  - JEG'S Super Quick S - Super Stock and Stock                       |

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|  | COAN ENGINEERINGTORQUE CONVERTER  |  |  |
|  | COAN ENGINEERINGTRANSMISSION  |  |  |
|  | CRANE CAMSCAMSHAFT  |  |  |
|  | CRANE CAMSROCKER ARMS   |  |  |
|  | CRANE CAMSROLLER LIFTERS  |  |  |
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|  | OHIO CRANKSHAFTCRANKSHAFT More Contingency Award Sponsors to come.  |  |  |
| 125.   | SPECIAL NOTE  |  |  |
| 000.<br>600.<br>200.   | SPECIAL NUTE  - JEG'S Super Quick Series is a qualified 64-car field at this event only.  - Super Stock and Stock National Record Runs.  - First Chance for 2003 National Event Grading Points in Division 3. |  |  |
| 75.  | HOTEL INFORMATION:  |  |  |
| 2400<br>2700<br>8727   | Four Points Sheraton (Fairview Heights)   |  |  |
| 8055   | Holiday Inn (St. Louis)314-421-4000   |  |  |

TRACK IS LOCATED JUST NORTH OF I-55/I-70 ON SR 203 · MADISON, ILLINOIS \* NATIONAL EVENT GRADING POINTS EVENT \* JEG'S SUPER QUICK SERIES

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PHONE CONTACTS: