

# NEWS FROM



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Contact:** NHRA Communications, (626) 914-4761

**NHRA Media Center Online:** <http://media.nhra.com>

### **FIVE LIVE ELIMINATIONS SHOWS HIGHLIGHT 2015 NHRA MELLO YELLO DRAG RACING SERIES TELEVISION PACKAGE ON ESPN AND ESPN2**

GLENDORA, Calif. (Jan. 26, 2015) – Five live elimination broadcasts highlight more than 100 hours of television programming of the 2015 NHRA Mello Yello Drag Racing Series on ESPN and ESPN2.

The five races that will showcase live coverage of eliminations are the NHRA Four-Wide Nationals at zMAX Dragway in Charlotte, N.C. (March 29, 2-5 p.m. ET), the O'Reilly Auto Parts NHRA Spring Nationals at Royal Purple Raceway near Houston (April 26, 2-5 p.m. ET), the NHRA Thunder Valley Nationals at Bristol (Tenn.) Dragway (June 21, 3-6 p.m. ET), the Summit Racing Equipment NHRA Nationals at Norwalk, Ohio's Summit Racing Equipment Motorsports Park (July 5, 1-4 p.m. ET) and Chicago's NHRA Route 66 Nationals at Route 66 Raceway (July 12, 2-5 p.m. ET).

Three of those live races – Charlotte, Bristol and Norwalk – will air on ESPN.

The 2015 season will open with ESPN2's coverage of the tradition-rich Circle K NHRA Winternationals at historic Auto Club Raceway at Pomona in Southern California with a 90-minute qualifying show on Saturday, Feb. 7 at 10 p.m. (ET) and a three-hour eliminations show on Sunday, Feb. 8 at 7:30 p.m. (ET). ESPN's full schedule of NHRA races is below.

The Chevrolet Performance U.S. Nationals at Indianapolis, the world's most-prestigious drag race, will once again be showcased via 10 hours of coverage over Labor Day weekend on both ESPN and ESPN2.

Each stop in the six-race NHRA Mello Yello Countdown to the Championship, NHRA's playoffs, will once again be highlighted by a three-hour eliminations show in primetime on ESPN2. Qualifying show times for the Countdown to the Championship races will be announced at a later date.

Host Dave Rieff and analyst Mike Dunn return to the broadcast booth and will be joined by pit reporters Gary Gerould and John Kernan as ESPN begins its 15th season of NHRA telecasts. ESPN veteran Rieff begins his third season as the show anchor and Dunn, a former Top Fuel and Funny Car driver with 22 career NHRA victories, will start his 14th season providing color commentary.

All telecasts will air in high definition on ESPN or ESPN2 and are available in some 95 million households nationwide. The telecasts will feature competition from each of the four classes in the NHRA Mello Yello Drag Racing Series. In addition, ESPN will provide Sunday re-airs of most late qualifying shows that originate in the early morning hours on the East Coast.

Headquartered in Glendora, Calif., NHRA is the primary sanctioning body for the sport of drag racing in the United States. NHRA presents 24 national events featuring the NHRA Mello Yello Drag Racing Series, NHRA Lucas Oil Drag Racing Series and NHRA J&A Service Pro Mod Drag Racing Series. NHRA provides competition opportunities for drivers of all levels in the NHRA Summit Racing Series and the NHRA Drags: Street Legal Style presented by AAA. NHRA also offers the Summit Racing Jr. Drag Racing League for youth ages 5 to 17. In addition, NHRA owns and operates five racing facilities: Atlanta Dragway in Georgia; Auto-Plus Raceway at Gainesville in Florida; National Trail Raceway in Ohio; Lucas Oil Raceway at Indianapolis; and Auto Club Raceway at Pomona in Southern California. For more information, log on to [NHRA.com](http://NHRA.com), or visit the official NHRA pages on Facebook, YouTube and Twitter.

## 2015 NHRA MELLO YELLO DRAG RACING SERIES TELEVISION SCHEDULE

All times Eastern. All shows to air on ESPN2 unless otherwise noted. Schedule is subject to change. Please check local listings.

<u>Event</u>	<u>Air Date, Time</u>
Circle K NHRA Winternationals Pomona, Calif.	Qualifying, Sat., Feb. 7, 10-11:30 p.m. Eliminations, Sun., Feb. 8, 7:30-10:30 p.m.
CARQUEST Auto Parts NHRA Nationals Phoenix	Qualifying, Sun., Feb. 22, 1-3 a.m. Qualifying re-air, Feb. 22, 6-8 p.m. Eliminations, Sun., Feb. 22, 8-11 p.m.
Amalie Motor Oil NHRA Gatornationals Gainesville, Fla.	Qualifying, Sun., March 15, 1:30-3:30 a.m. Qualifying re-air, March 15, 7-9 a.m. Eliminations, Sunday, March 15, 7-9 p.m.
NHRA Four-Wide Nationals Charlotte, N.C.	Qualifying, Sat., March 28, 8-9:30 p.m. Eliminations, Sunday, March 29, 2-5 p.m. <b>(LIVE on ESPN)</b>
SummitRacing.com NHRA Nationals Las Vegas	Qualifying, Sat., April 11, 6-8 p.m. Eliminations, Sun., April 12, 8-11 p.m.
O'Reilly Auto Parts NHRA SpringNationals Houston	Qualifying, Sat., April 25, 6-8 p.m. Eliminations, Sun., April 26, 2-5 p.m. <b>(LIVE)</b>
Summit Racing Equipment NHRA Southern Nationals Atlanta	Qualifying, Sat., May 16, 9-11 p.m. Eliminations, Sun., May 17, 9 p.m.-Midnight
NHRA Kansas Nationals Topeka, Kan.	Qualifying, Sat., May 23, 6-8 p.m. Eliminations, Sun., May 24, 10 p.m.-1 a.m.
Toyota NHRA Summernationals Englishtown, N.J.	Qualifying, Sat., June 6, 11 p.m.-1 a.m. Eliminations, Sun., June 7, 9 p.m.-Midnight
NHRA New England Nationals Epping, N.H.	Qualifying, Sat., June 13, 8-10 p.m. Eliminations, Sun., June 14, 5-8 p.m.
NHRA Thunder Valley Nationals Bristol, Tenn.	Qualifying, Sat., June 20, 7-9 p.m. Eliminations, Sun., June 21, 3-6 p.m. <b>(LIVE on ESPN)</b>
Summit Racing Equipment NHRA Nationals Norwalk, Ohio	Qualifying, Sat., July 4, 5:30-7:30 p.m. Eliminations, Sun., July 5, 1-4 p.m. <b>(LIVE on ESPN)</b>
NHRA Route 66 Nationals Chicago	Qualifying, Sat., July 11, 10 p.m.-Midnight Eliminations, Sun., July 12, 2-5 p.m. <b>(LIVE)</b>
Mopar Mile-High NHRA Nationals Denver	Qualifying, Sat., July 25, 11 p.m.-1 a.m. Eliminations, Sun., July 26, 9 p.m.-Midnight

NHRA Sonoma Nationals Sonoma, Calif.	Qualifying, Sat., Aug. 1, 7-9 p.m. Eliminations, Sun., Aug. 2, 8-11 p.m.
NHRA Northwest Nationals Seattle	Qualifying, Sat., Aug. 8, 11 p.m.-1 a.m. Eliminations, Sun., Aug. 9, 8-11 p.m.
Lucas Oil NHRA Nationals Brainerd, Minn.	Qualifying, Sat., Aug. 22, 11 p.m.-1 a.m. Eliminations, Sun., Aug. 23, 9 p.m.-Midnight
Chevrolet Performance U.S. Nationals Indianapolis	Qualifying, Sun., Sept. 6, 11 a.m.-3:30 p.m. <b>(ESPN)</b> Qualifying, Sun., Sept. 6, 11 p.m.-1:30 a.m. Eliminations, Mon., Sept. 7, 4-7 p.m. <b>(ESPN)</b>
NHRA Carolina Nationals Charlotte, N.C.	Qualifying, Sat., Sept. 19, TBD Eliminations, Sun., Sept. 20, 8:30-11:30 p.m.
AAA Insurance NHRA Midwest Nationals St. Louis	Qualifying, Sat., Sept. 26, TBD Eliminations, Sun., Sept. 27, 8:30-11:30 p.m.
NHRA Keystone Nationals Reading, Pa.	Qualifying, Sat., Oct. 3, TBD Eliminations, Sun., Oct. 4, 8-11 p.m.
AAA Texas NHRA Fall Nationals Dallas	Qualifying, Sat., Oct. 17, TBD Eliminations, Sun., Oct. 18, 8-11 p.m.
NHRA Toyota Nationals Las Vegas	Qualifying, Sat., Oct. 31, TBD Eliminations, Sun., Nov. 1, 8-11 p.m.
Auto Club NHRA Finals Pomona, Calif.	Qualifying, Sat., Nov. 14, TBD Eliminations, Sun., Nov. 15, 7:30-10:30 p.m.