

## 2026 NHRA Event Information

### About NHRA Racing-

NHRA (the National Hot Rod Association) hosts drag racing events across the country. A drag race is an acceleration contest from a standing start between two vehicles over a measured distance. A drag racing event is a series of such two-vehicle, tournament-style eliminations. The losing racer in each contest is eliminated, and the winning racers continue until one remains.

Each race is started by an electronic device commonly called a Christmas Tree. On each side of the Tree are six lights: a circle of small blue lights at the top — the top half for pre-staging and the bottom half for staging — three larger amber bulbs, a green bulb, and a red bulb.

Two light beams cross the starting-line area and connect to trackside photocells, which are wired to the Tree and electronic timers in the control tower. When the front tires of a vehicle break the first light beam, the pre-stage beam, the pre-stage lights on the Tree indicate that the racer is about 7 inches from the starting line.

When the racer rolls into the stage beam, the front tires are exactly on the starting line. The stage bulbs light, indicating that the vehicle is ready to race. When both vehicles are fully staged, the starter will activate the Tree, and each racer will focus on the three large amber lights on his or her side.

Depending on the type of racing, all three amber lights will flash simultaneously, followed four-tenths of a second later by the green light (a Pro Tree), or the three bulbs will flash consecutively five-tenths of a second apart, followed five-tenths later by the green light (a Sportsman, or full, Tree).

Elapsed time (e.t.) and speed are monitored for each run. Upon leaving the staging beams, each vehicle activates an e.t. clock, which stops when the vehicle reaches the finish line. The start-to-finish clocking is the e.t. Speed is measured in a 66-foot speed trap that ends at the finish line. Each lane is timed independently.

The first vehicle across the finish line wins. A racer also may be disqualified for leaving the starting line too soon, leaving the lane boundary, failing to stage, or failing a post-run inspection.

More specifics on NHRA car classes can be found at the bottom of this document.

### Event Information-

### **Parking & Transportation-**

Employee parking for this weekend's NHRA 4-Wide Nationals is located behind the Dirt Track. Shuttle buses will be running from the employee parking lot to the Dragway roundabout at the hours listed below. Employees, please make sure not to park in the suite reserved or reserved handicap lots. We will need to save these close parking areas for our fans who need them. Finally, no employee parking behind ticket booth #2, as we need to leave room for the television compound.

### **Guest Parking-**

Guest parking is \$10 (Cash or Card). Motorcycle parking is located inside the front gates of the Dirt Track.

Parking for Suites, Media, and ADA you will enter at entrance X and will be directed by parking staff.

For general event parking they can enter at entrance T, Y, W, or U and will pay on site.

### **Employee Parking Shuttle Bus-**

- Thursday, April 23<sup>rd</sup> – No employee bus on Thursday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>. Limited staff working on Thursday should park in the Dragway suite parking lot.
- Friday, April 24<sup>th</sup> – 6:30A until 30 minutes post-race
- Saturday, April 25<sup>th</sup> – 6:30A until 30 minutes post-race
- Sunday, April 26<sup>th</sup> – 6:45A until 30 minutes post-race

### **ADA Fan Assistance Shuttles-**

Radio: "Fan Asst Carts"

ADA Fan Assistance Carts will be roaming around the property to assistance fans. Collected donations will go to Speedway Children's Charities. Fan Assistance shuttles can drop off and pick up at the Information Booth outside of zMAX Tower. Fan Assistance carts cannot be reserved and cannot enter the pits for safety reasons.

Fan Assistance Carts will be running during the times listed below-

- Friday: 12:00P –until 30 minutes after the completion of Pro Rounds
- Saturday: 9:00A – until 30 minutes after the completion of Pro Rounds
- Sunday: 9:00A – until 30 minutes after the completion of Pro Rounds

### **Fan Trams to Parking Lots-**

Fan trams will run to and from the parking lots in front of Dirt Track during the below hours-

- Friday- 11:30A - 1 Hour After Pro Rounds End
- Saturday- 9:00A - 1 Hour After Pro Rounds End
- Sunday- 10:00A - 1 Hour After Pro Rounds End

### **Guest Entrances/ Gates-**

Gates 1 & 2 will be open during NHRA weekend at the times listed below-

- Gate 1: Friday 8:00A, Saturday 8:00A, Sunday 8:30A
- Gate 2: Friday 1:00P, Saturday 10:00A, Sunday 10:00A

### **Tickets-**

Ticket Booth Hours:

- Gate 1 Ticket Booth - Friday 8:00A, Saturday 8:00A, and Sunday 8:00A
- Gate 2 Ticket Booth- Friday 11:30A, Saturday 10:00A, and Sunday 9:00A
- NASCAR Industry Ticket Pricing– Friday ONLY: send to Ticket Booth 1

Ticket Pricing-

- \$50 (Fri) & \$60 for (Sat & Sun) - General Admission
- \$55 (Fri) & \$65 for (Sat & Sun) for Sections A-C, S-U
- \$65 (Fri) & \$75 for (Sat & Sun) for Sections D-R
- Children 12 & under —\$10 ticket

Ticket Renewals-

Ticket renewals can be completed outside of Gate 1 at the renewal booth. Renewal gift is a John Force Championship ring.

### **Sunday Church Service-**

Sunday's Church Service will take place at 9:00A (Gate 1 will open at 8:30A for those attending Church Service). **The location has not yet been released.**

### **First Aid-**

First Aid is located in Sections M and EE.

### **Information Booths-**

Information Booths are located in front of zMAX Tower, next to John Force Grandstands Section A Stairs, and under John Force Grandstands Section J. (send guest to info booth out front of zMAX Tower who need ADA Golf Cart Shuttle)

### **Suites and Hospitality-**

#### **Suites Locations-**

- Suites 1-19- John Force Grandstands
- Suite 122- Dragway Tower- First Floor
- Suite 201-208- Dragway Tower- Second Floor
- Suite 301-308- Dragway Tower- Third Floor
- Media Center- Dragway Tower- First Floor

#### **Suite Clients/ Guests-**

- Suite 1- NHRA
- Suite 2- Levy Staff
- Suite 3- JOC
- Suite 4- Baker American Cycles
- Suite 5- Events Department
- Suite 6- BG Products
- Suite 7- Cabarrus County CVB
- Suite 8- Cabarrus County CVB
- Suite 9- President's Suite
- Suite 11- President's Suite
- Suite 12- Performance Fire- Saturday Only
- Suite 13- Genesis- Saturday Only
- Suite 14-
- Suite 15- Public Suite
- Suite 17- Public Suite
- Suite 18- Public Suite

- Suite 19- Public Suite
- Suite 201- Siemens Energy (Friday), Caine Group (Saturday)
- Suite 203- zMAX
- Suite 204- Southeast Industrial (Friday), Coca-Cola Consolidated (Saturday & Sunday)
- Suite 205- Southeast Industrial
- Suite 207- Southeast Industrial (Saturday & Sunday)
- Suite 208- Southeast Industrial (Saturday & Sunday)
- Suite 301- Carolina CAT
- Suite 303- Sherwin Williams (Saturday), Redlee Services (Sunday)
- Suite 304- Speedway Club (Saturday)
- Suite 305- Corporate Sales
- Suite 308- C.W. Williams

#### **Hospitality-**

- The UNOH Experience
  - The University of Northwestern Ohio will have a hospitality tent in Trackside Hospitality spot #1 on Saturday, April 25<sup>th</sup> at 1:30P-5:00P. Their program for morning will be taking place in the Media Center at Charlotte Motor Speedway.
- Gerber Collision
  - Will be located in front of the Sound Wall
  - Check in will be to the left of the pedestrian tunnel at the end of John Force grandstand.

#### **Grandstand Tunnels-**

- The first tunnel is located near section G & H on the John Force Grandstands side and sections GG & HH on the East Grandstands side.
- The second tunnel is located at the finish line on both sides of the grandstands.

#### **Pit Locations & Activations-**

Every ticket is a pit pass!

- Nitro Alley is located directly behind the John Force Grandstands
- Nitro Mall is located near the entrance of Nitro Alley, behind the John Force Grandstands

- RevZilla/ Rip-Zilla Experience- Ready to see what riding is all about? Join us for our free RIDE Day Experience! Open to anyone 16 and older, this event lets you try riding a motorcycle in a safe, controlled environment with certified coaches. No experience needed—bikes and gear are provided! Make sure to invite and tag your friends who don't ride yet!
- Rip-Zilla Ride Schedule
  - Friday: 12:00P-6:00P
  - Saturday: 9:00A-4:00P
  - Sunday: 9:00A-3:00P
- Car Show- Pavilion on Saturday and Sunday featuring local car clubs and enthusiasts and NRE.
- Dodge Thrill Rides are rolling into the pits, giving fans a once-in-a-lifetime chance to experience the power of the 2026 Dodge Charger SIXPACK from the passenger seat. Buckle up for adrenaline-pumping donuts, drifting and high-speed maneuvers on a closed course. These high-performance machines showcase the next-generation Dodge Charger 2-Door R/T, putting its cutting-edge power and precision on full display at one of the sport's premier venues. Beyond the ride-along excitement, fans can explore the Dodge display, featuring bold new muscle cars and a lineup of eye-catching vehicles that highlight the brand's performance-driven future.

### **Driver Autograph Sessions-**

#### Friday Autograph Sessions-

- 1:30 p.m. - Pro Mod Autograph Session (Pro Mod Merchandise Trailer)
- 2:00 p.m. - Funny Car and Pro Stock Mission #2Fast2Tasty Autograph Session (Mission Foods Display)
- 2:15 p.m. - Dodge Autograph Session (Dodge Display)
- 2:30 p.m. - Pro Mod Autograph Session (Pro Mod Merchandise Trailer)
- 5:40 p.m. - Pro Mod Autograph Session (Pro Mod Merchandise Trailer)

#### Saturday Autograph Sessions-

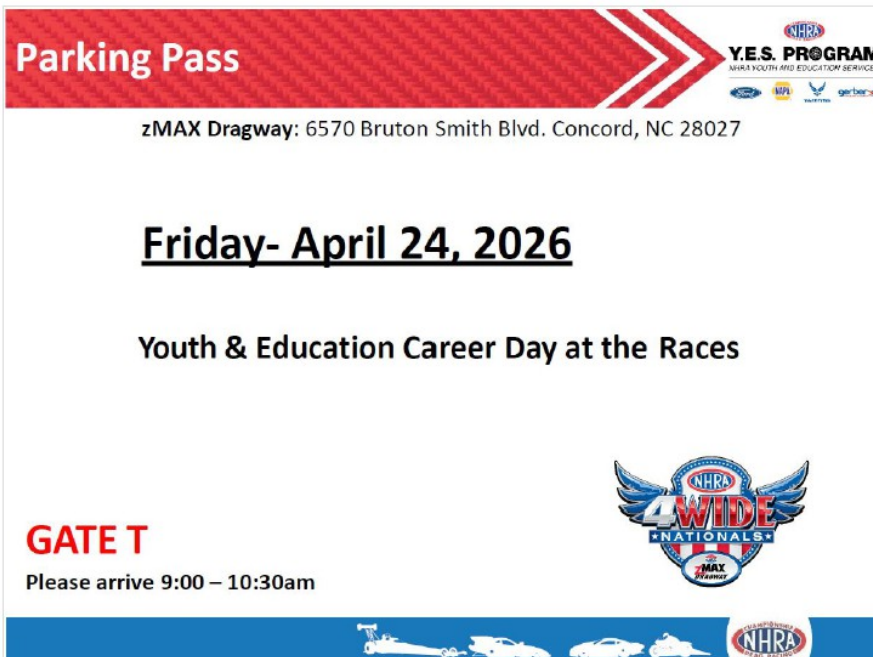
- 9:30 a.m. - Top Fuel and Pro Stock Motorcycle Mission #2Fast2Tasty Autograph Session, plus Darrell Gwynn and Frank Manzo (Mission Foods Display)
- 10:00 a.m. - Jack Beckman and Josh Hart Autograph Session (John Force Racing Merch Trailer)
- 10:00 a.m. - SCAG Racing Autograph Session (SCAG Display)

- 10:15 a.m. - Dodge Autograph Session (Dodge Display)
- 10:30 a.m. - Pro Mod Autograph Session (Pro Mod Merchandise Trailer)
- 11:30 a.m. - Elite Motorsports Autograph Session with all six Elite Pro Stock Drivers (JEGS Display)
- 1:45 p.m. - Pro Mod Autograph Session (Pro Mod Merchandise Trailer)

### YES Program-

The NHRA Youth & Education Services (YES) It is a full-time education program in motorsports that provides quality programs and activities for schools and youth organizations nationwide. Not only is the YES Program FREE, it focuses on the importance of goals and continued education, while allowing students to learn about and explore various career opportunities. The program will show students how S.T.E.M. (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) is applied to both, real world situations and NHRA Drag Racing, which they will have the opportunity to see live at the track!

The YES Program will be held on Friday morning in the Dragway Pavilion.



### NHRA Event Rain Guidelines-

Qualifying (Friday & Saturday) - If Pro Nitro qualifying is rained out the customer will be entitled to 100%\* credit. Following completion of one round of Pro Nitro qualifying, no compensation will be given. Eliminations (Sunday) - A total rainout entitles the customer to 100%\* credit. Following the completion of one round of Pro Nitro eliminations customer will be entitled to 50%\*. Following the completion of two rounds of Pro Nitro eliminations, no compensation will be given. In the event of a rainout, the customer must retain ticket stub to enter on

rescheduled date. If a customer cannot attend the rescheduled event, the ticket holder must retain the ticket(s) for use toward ticket purchase for any event day in in the next calendar year. Customer is responsible for any differences due to price increases, account fees, etc.

### **Important Numbers-**

- Security - 704-455-3220 - Radio channel — “Security”
- EMS - 704-455-4028 - Radio channel “EMS Dispatch”
- Operations - 704-455-3211 - Radio channel “Operations”
- Golf Cart Shuttle - Radio channel “Fan Asst Carts”
- United Site Services– 704-718-5185
- Fan Assistance Line– TEXT 704-455-4357 (HELP)

### **Drinking/ Water Fountain Locations-**

- John Force Grandstand Drinking Fountains
  - A/B
  - J/L
  - U/V
- East Grandstands Drinking Fountains
  - BB
  - JJ
  - MM
  - PP
  - WW

### **Levy Restaurants Staff Check In-**

Levy Restaurants Staff Check In is located behind the Dirt Track in the Employee Parking lot.

### **Lost and Found-**

Lost and Found is located at the front doors of zMAX Dragway Tower. After event weekend, Lost and Found items will be transferred to the Smith Tower Ticket Booth.

### **UPS/ FedEx Delivery Location-**

UPS and FedEx Deliveries may be taken to inside Gate 4.

### **Track Services-**

Track Services Radio Channel: EMS Dispatch

Wednesday, April 22:

- Medical 7:00A-7:00P – Supervisor: Tommy Williams
- Fire Watch 7:00A-7:00P – Supervisor: Peter Cachia

Thursday, April 23:

- Medical 7:00A-7:00P – Paul Dean
- Fire Watch 7:00A-7:00P – Steve Phillips

Friday, April 24:

- Tower – Keith Cook
- Overnight – Steve Phillips

Saturday, April 25:

- Tower – Keith Cook
- Overnight – Steve Phillips

Sunday, April 26:

- Tower – Keith Cook
- Overnight – Steve Phillips

### **Night of Fire**

Night of Fire, which was scheduled for Friday, has been canceled for this event due to the Burn Ban in North Carolina.

### **Speedway Children's Charities-**

50/50 Raffle: Booth: Entrance of John Force Grandstand and walkers

- Friday: 12:00P-9:00P
- Saturday: 9:00A-7:00P
- Sunday: 9:30A-6:00P

Speedway Children's Charities Auction Winner will receive Suite passes in CMS Suite

### **Camping**

Camper appreciation will be held on Saturday and Sunday at 8:30A on the patio behind the camping log cabin.

### **Levy**

- Levy Tenders & Wow Items – Bulgogi Chicken Wonchos and Char Siu Pork Poke Bowl
- Levy Bar Sheds
- Levy – 3 concession stands
- Archie Boys BBQ
- Buckeye Wraps
- Concessions Concepts- Brats and Snacks
- Creative Concessions – Bars and Snacks
- E&M- stands and tent
- Fan Favorite Hawkers
- Genoa Concessions
- Gus- stand and trailers
- Hungry Howies Pizza
- Kona Ice
- Scoops N More
- Shiver Shack- trailer & Ice sales
- Top That Mini Donuts
- Travelin Toms Coffee

#### **Operations-**

- Operations Office Hours for Fueling: 7:00A-5:00P
- Event Day Operations Dispatch: Radio/ WhatsApp/ Phone- 704-455-3211
- Operations Radio Channel 1
- After Hours Operations Dispatch: 704-454-1350

#### **Credentials-**

NHRA Credentials are located at the NHRA Credentials Trailer beside the suite parking lot on entrance road X.

NHRA Credential trailer will be open during the below hours-

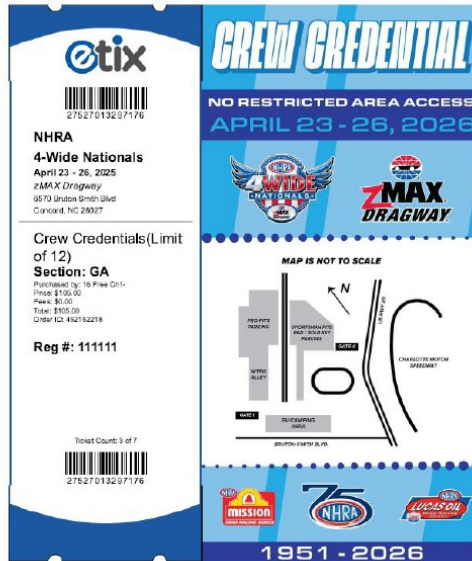
- Wednesday: 1:00P– 5:00P
- Thursday: 8:00A– 5:00P
- Friday: 7:30A– 7:30P

- Saturday: 8:00A– 3:30P
- Sunday: 9:00A– 2:00P

Charlotte Motor Speedway credentials will be distributed prior to the event weekend via Becky VanSandt [bvansandt@charlottemotorspeedway.com](mailto:bvansandt@charlottemotorspeedway.com). Sample of credentials are provided below- all credentials and their purposes can be found in Charlotte Motor Speedway NHRA Credential Book.







FRONT



BACK

Revocable License: This ticket/wristband is a revocable license. The Holder, on behalf of the Holder and any minor accompanying the Holder (individually and collectively, the "Holder") agrees to all the terms for this ticket/wristband that are posted at [www.charlottemotorspeedway.com](http://www.charlottemotorspeedway.com); in addition to the Holder may ask the ticket staff for a hard copy of these terms.

Cloth style wristband good for all event days. Allows access throughout venue for working staff.



Paper style wristbands good for suite access on specific day.



Friday - BLUE  
Saturday - SILVER



Sunday - RED

### Golf Carts and Motorized Vehicles-

- All motorized vehicles or golf carts must have a valid license plate, and SMI/CMS event golf cart credential or an SMI annual credential. The credential must be displayed on the

vehicle at all times. Unauthorized use of these vehicles may result in immediate removal or impoundment of the vehicle. Images of credentials are included below.



### Drag Racing Classes-

At NHRA Camping World Drag Racing Series events, fans may see more than 200 classes of vehicles in 15 categories, or eliminators. Class eligibility is based on requirements that include type of vehicle, engine size, vehicle weight, allowable modifications, and aerodynamics.

Top Fuel, Funny Car, Pro Stock, Pro Stock Motorcycle, Top Alcohol Dragster, Top Alcohol Funny Car, Super Comp, Super Gas, Super Street, and Pro Mod feature a single class of vehicle in heads-up competition. Comp, Super Stock, and Stock are made up of a variety of classes equalized by a handicap starting system. Top Dragster and Top Sportsman feature a single class of vehicle in bracket-style competition.

#### Top Fuel Car

Among the fastest-accelerating machines in the world, 11,000-horsepower Top Fuel dragsters are often referred to as the “kings of the sport,” and with good reason. They are capable of covering the dragstrip in less than 3.7 seconds at more than 330 mph. Powered by a supercharged and fuel-injected 500-cubic-inch adaptation of the famed Chrysler Hemi engine, Top Fuel dragsters can burn up to 15 gallons of nitromethane fuel during a single run. Constructed of chromoly steel tubing and carbon-fiber composite, Top Fuel cars are 25 feet long and weigh 2,330 pounds in race-ready trim.

#### Funny Car

Similar to their Top Fuel counterparts but with a shorter wheelbase and a carbon-fiber body that loosely resembles a production-based automobile, Funny Cars can run in the 3.8-second range and are capable of speeds in excess of 330 mph. Funny Cars are powered by the same supercharged and fuel-injected 500-inch engines as Top Fuel dragsters. Funny Cars are also similar to Top Fuel dragsters in that they do not use a transmission but rather transmit power to the huge Goodyear rear slicks through a multistage clutch assembly that is activated by timers.

#### Pro Stock

Often called “factory hot rods” because of their resemblance to production-based automobiles, Pro Stock cars are some of the most technologically advanced machines in drag racing. Built around a sophisticated tube chassis and four-link rear suspension, Pro Stock cars must conform to precise measurements and weigh no less than 2,350 pounds. Pro Stock engines use electronic fuel injection and spec gasoline and are restricted to a maximum of 500 cubic inches. They can make in excess of 1,300 horsepower. A competitive Pro Stock car can run in the 6.5s at more than 210 mph.

#### Pro Stock Motorcycle

These highly modified vehicles, which can run under 6.8 seconds at more than 195 mph, feature a purpose-built tube chassis and a lightweight, aerodynamically enhanced replica of original bodywork. The class features a wide variety of makes, models, and engines, including V-Twin entries from Harley-Davidson, Victory, EBR, and Buell and inline four-cylinder-equipped Suzuki and Kawasaki models. Engine sizes vary widely, ranging from 92 to 160 cubic inches. Fuel injection is permitted, and spec gasoline is the only fuel allowed

#### Top Alcohol Dragster

Top Alcohol Dragsters may look like Top Fuelers, but they have significant differences. Whereas Top Fuelers use supercharged, nitro-burning engines, Top Alcohol Dragsters may use a supercharged methanol-burning engine or an injected nitromethane combination. The injected nitro cars do not use a transmission, and the supercharged cars have three forward speeds. Weights vary according to combination but are generally between 1,975 and 2,125 pounds. Like Top Fuelers, Top Alcohol Dragsters are restricted to a maximum wheelbase of 300 inches. Performances can be in the 5.1s at more than 285 mph.

#### Top Alcohol Funny Car

Similar in physical appearance to their nitro-burning Funny Car counterparts, Top Alcohol Funny Cars are restricted to the use of methanol fuel and have a three-speed transmission. Top Alcohol Funny Cars feature basically the same chromoly steel chassis as the nitro cars and are fitted with the same carbon-fiber replica bodies, though the Top Alcohol Funny Car bodies do not need as much downforce and use a much smaller rear spoiler. Top Alcohol Funny Cars are capable of performances in the 5.3s at more than 270 mph.

#### Comp

No category in NHRA competition features more variety than Comp. Dragsters, altered, street roadsters, coupes, sedans, front-engine nostalgia dragsters, sport compact cars, and trucks race in 75 classes. The engine combinations are just as diverse as the vehicles, from turbocharged four- and six-cylinder engines to Pro Stock-style V-8s and nitrous-oxide-equipped mountain motors. Most cars are classified using a formula that divides total car weight by cubic inches. Each class is assigned an index based on what a well-built car should run, and races are handicapped according to those indexes.

#### Super Stock

Super Stock vehicles may look like ordinary passenger vehicles, but they are highly modified race cars. The category features primarily late-model sedans and vintage muscle cars, and entries are classified using a system that divides factory shipping weight by NHRA-factored horsepower. Significant engine modifications are permitted, but the vehicle must retain the correct engine block, cylinder heads, and carburetor. Cars are handicapped using an index system, and the breakout rule is enforced.

### Stock

Stock cars are similar to Super Stockers, but the rules regarding everything from engine modifications to body alterations are much stricter. Virtually any car is eligible to compete, and entries are classified using a system that divides factory shipping weight by NHRA-factored horsepower. Bodies must be unaltered and retain a full factory interior. Tires are limited to a maximum 9-inch-wide rear slick. Engines must be correct for the make and model vehicle and must retain stock cylinder heads, intake manifold, and carburetor. Modifications are limited to a basic balancing and rebuild with only a few performance enhancements.

### Super Comp

The quickest of the heads-up Super classes (8.90 index), Super Comp is composed primarily of dragsters. Engine, chassis, and body modifications are virtually unlimited. Four- and six-cylinder-powered entries may have a minimum weight of 1,000 pounds; all others cannot weigh less than 1,350 pounds. Most Super Comp cars are capable of running well under the 8.90 index but use a number of electronic aids, including a timer and adjustable throttle, to run close to the index without running quicker than it, or breaking out.

### Super Gas

Super Gas entries, which run on a 9.90 index, are primarily full-bodied cars and street roadsters. No dragsters or altered cars are permitted. Rules regarding engine and chassis modifications are extremely liberal, though the use of exotic fuels is prohibited. The minimum weight is 2,100 pounds except for four-cylinder-powered cars, which may have a minimum weight of 1,200 pounds. As in Super Comp, competitors use electronic timers and throttle stops to run as close to the class standard without going under. Also, as in Super Comp, races are staged using a four-tenths Pro start.

### Super Street

At NHRA Lucas Oil Drag Racing Series races and select NHRA Camping World Drag Racing Series events, Super Street racers compete on a fixed 10.90-second index. All vehicles must be full-bodied cars and weigh no less than 2,800 pounds except for six-cylinder cars, which may have a minimum weight of 2,000 pounds, and four-cylinder- and rotary-powered cars (1,200 pounds). Engine and chassis modifications are virtually unlimited. Racers compete on a five-tenths Pro Tree.

### Top Dragster, Top Sportsman

Essentially a pair of categories for fast E.T. racers, Top Dragster presented by Racing RVs (open-wheel entries) and Top Sportsman presented by Racing RVs (full-bodied cars) feature a qualified field of 32, 48, or 64 entries. Competitors may choose their own dial for eliminations provided it is not slower than 7.99 seconds (8.19 in Divisions 6 and 7). Eliminations in both classes are run using a traditional bracket racing format with a full three-amber Christmas Tree start, and the breakout rule is enforced. It is not uncommon for entries to run in the sixes at more than 200 mph.

#### Pro Mod

The NHRA J&A Service Pro Mod Drag Racing Series features an eclectic mix of vehicles that range from '41 Willys coupes to '63 Corvettes to late-model Ford Mustangs and Dodge Vipers, and few classes offer as much diversity and excitement. The engine choices are equally as diverse; competitors can use superchargers, turbochargers, or nitrous-oxide injection and can run into the high-five-second zone at speeds of more than 250 mph. Pro Mod drivers compete at 10 NHRA Camping World Drag Racing Series events.

#### Factory Stock

Showroom-ready Chevrolet Camaros, Ford Mustangs, and Dodge Challengers face off in heads-up battles quicker than eight seconds and faster than 170 mph. Competition is run heads-up, first one to the finish line wins in a true display of bragging rights for today's domestic factory hot rods

#### Top Fuel Harley

Nitro-burning motorcycles that must retain features of the Harley-Davidson engine (a pushrod V-Twin). These riders traverse the quarter-mile at breathtaking speeds of well more than 200 mph. Their bikes are started before they get on top of them because of the violent nature of the 1,500-hp, fire-breathing machines.