



Firebird Raceway 2011 Schedule

Elevation of NHRA Arizona Nationals to Playoff Race and two Lucas Oil Off Road Races highlight busy 2011 calendar

Long the star of Firebird International Raceway's early season, the 2011 NHRA Arizona Nationals moves to fall, ensuring the race a spot in the six-race Points Countdown—the sport's equivalent of championship playoffs.

After its Firebird Raceway December debut on a newly remodeled off-road track, the Lucas Oil Off Road Racing Series returns in March for the first of two 2011 races at Firebird. The year also includes two Lucas Oil Drag Boat Series events, the annual Monster Trucks event, and the Super Chevy Show, which returned to Firebird in 2010 after a nearly eight-year hiatus. The action begins in early February and continues all year.

February 17-20: NHRA Division 7 Series Opener

Teams look for early-season momentum at one of the largest events in the country, in classes from Alcohol Funny Cars to Gas, Super Street and more.

March 19-20: Lucas Oil Off Road Racing Series

Short-course off road racing with West Coast influence, LOORRS brings intense four-wheel door-to-door action.

March 27: BUGORAMA

America's longest-running VW event: drag racing, the world's largest VW-only swap meet, show & shine, more.

April TBD: AHDRA Nationals

All-Harley Drag Racing Association: 15 different classes from 230-mph Top Fuel bikes to ET class.

April 30: NAPA Auto Parts Monster Truck Nationals

One of Arizona's largest fields of Monster Trucks, competing side-by-side in all-out freestyle competition, plus some of the world's fastest jet cars at almost 300 mph.

May 27-29: Lucas Oil Drag Boat May Fest

The liquid quarter mile at Firebird Lake plays host to the first of two visits from the Lucas Oil Drag Boat Series.

October 14-16: NHRA Arizona Nationals

A critical Points Countdown race toward determining 2011 world champions, with Top Fuel, Funny Car and Pro Stock divisions. NHRA's motorcycle class also debuts.

October 29-30: The Super Chevy Show

Hot rods and customs, a huge vendor midway, hundreds of show cars, and awards from *Super Chevy Magazine*.

November 17-20: NAPA Auto Parts World Finals

Firebird Lake hosts the end-of-season showdown in the Lucas Oil Drag Boat Racing season as Top Fuel Hydros, Top Alcohol Hydros, Pro Modified, Pro Gas Flats and more battle it out at nearly 250mph.

December 10-11: Lucas Oil Off Road Racing Series

After opening their season at Firebird, the daring competitors of the LOORRS will end their season at Firebird as well. Championships are decided as the dirt flies.

For more information, visit firebirdraceway.com. ■



Photos: Joe Sage

The 4th Annual Wheels of Wellness Charity Event

Racing Greats Dario Franchitti, Danica Patrick, Bobby Rahal and Denise McCluggage: teen and family cancer support programs benefit from exclusive, world-class showcase
The Wellness Community, 360 E. Palm Lane in downtown Phoenix: 11am-3pm, Sunday, January 16, 2011

Now in its fourth year, Wheels of Wellness has become a much-anticipated gathering of racing luminaries and car aficionados that kicks off Arizona Auction Week, a series of events that draws car enthusiasts from across the nation and throughout the world. The event is the brainchild of a small group of Phoenix and Scottsdale business executives who are avid vintage car collectors and drivers, and whose lives have been touched by cancer. 2009 IndyCar Series Champion Dario Franchitti and Danica Patrick, the first woman to win an IndyCar race, are among the racing greats who will participate in a Legends of Motorsports panel. The event, title sponsored by GoDaddy.com, the world's largest Web hosting provider and top domain name registrar, will also feature Lyn St. James, the first female Indy 500 Rookie of the Year, who will serve as moderator for the panel discussion. The panel will include such female racing luminaries as Denise McCluggage and Desiré Wilson. Justin Bell, son of celebrated racing driver Derek Bell, will also attend. Celebrities, racecar owners and sponsors are donating their time and talents to help raise funds to support programs provided by The Wellness Community—Arizona for teens with cancer and families impacted by cancer.

GUESTS: Among the racing greats who have been invited to appear at the event are:

- Two-time Indianapolis 500 winner and 2009/2007 IndyCar Series Champion Dario Franchitti
- Danica Patrick, the first woman to win an IndyCar race and star of 2009's most watched Super Bowl commercial
- Lyn St. James, the first woman to win the Indianapolis 500 Rookie of the Year award
- Noted auto racing driver, journalist, author and photographer Denise McCluggage
- Desiré Wilson, the only woman in history to win a Grand Prix race (the Aurora series)
- Justin Bell, FIA GT2 champion, Trans Am Rookie of the Year, correspondent for Jay Leno's Garage and for ALMS
- Bobby Rahal, winner of three championships and 24 CART open-wheel races, including the 1986 Indianapolis 500

WOMEN IN THE WINNER'S CIRCLE EXHIBIT: A special highlight will be an exclusive preview of the Women in the Winner's Circle Exhibit, which will subsequently tour the nation. Presented in partnership with The Henry Ford Museum in Dearborn, Michigan, the 600-square-foot exhibit documents the extraordinary history and accomplishments of women in motorsports. Included are personal artifacts from significant drivers, an interactive kiosk and informational panels documenting the accomplishments of women drivers in racing since 1903.

HISTORIC RACECARS: Stroll among a world-class display of more than two dozen rare, exquisite vintage racecars. This year's special focus is on American-built racecars from the '50s and '60s, plus rare, vintage motorcycles. Racecars include:

- Lance Reventlow's dominating 1958 Scarab Mk1 (chassis #1)
- An original 1962 Chaparral I (Hall/Sharp Road America 500 winner)
- 1958 Echidna, 1 of 3 ever built ('59 SCCA national champion)
- 1962 Ol' Yeller VIII (built by Max Balchowsky)
- 1951 "Fabulous" Hudson Hornet stock car
- 1963 Ford Galaxie stock car (Dan Gurney's Riverside winner)
- 1964 McLaren-Elva MkIA (Cro-Sal Special)
- 1971 Alfa Romeo Tipo 33/3 (5th at the Targa Florio)
- 1976 IROC Camaro (A.J. Foyt)

TICKETS: Showcase entry tickets are \$75, with \$50 of this amount tax-deductible. There is limited availability, so RSVP as soon as possible. To purchase tickets, contact Stephanie DiStefano at 602-712-1006 or sdistefano@twc-caz.org. For more information about the event or to purchase tickets online, visit wheelsofwellness.org. ■

