

## FORCE WINS WINTERNAIONALS; SETS ET AND SPEED RECORDS

For the seventh time in his career, John Force drove his Castrol GTX High Mileage Mustang Funny Car to victory at the 54th running of the Circle K NHRA Winternationals at Auto Club Raceway in Pomona on Feb. 9th. This was John Force's sixth final in a row going back to the 2013 NHRA Mello Yello season but the final can be described as an epic rematch between two of the strongest Funny Cars in recent memory. It was at this same spot at the conclusion of the 2013 NHRA Mello Yello season during the Auto Club Finals that John Force and Matt Hagan squared off against each other with John coming up on the losing end.

Fortunately for John, today's outcome was much different when he defeated Matt Hagan with an earth shattering time of 3.965 seconds at over 323 MPH to Hagan's tire smoking time of 6.61 seconds. "I get really excited racing Hagan and the ESPN announcer in the semi-round said 'Do you see those muscles on that kid, do you think you can beat



Photos courtesy of NHRA

him?" I said what is this, the WWF, we aren't in a cage," said John Force.

Going into the final round, the brain trust of Jimmy Prock and rest of the Castrol GTX High Mileage team put a tune-up on John's Mustang that could've rotated the earth. "I've got a good race car. It is amazing and we are trying to build our sport. We are out here trying to run good for the fans. Jimmy Prock and the whole brain trust are working together," said John Force.

However the competition is more fierce as there seems to be even more parody among the drivers, regardless which team they're on. "Robert ran 3.98 and DeJoria ran 3.99. Let's give Schumacher's cars credit they ran in the threes two years ago," said John Force.

When the smoke and the clutch dust cleared, it was John's Castrol GTX High Mileage Mustang being

directed by the NHRA crew to stop in front of the swarm of photographers and TV cameras. "After the final when I got out of the car on the top end, the ESPN announcer said 'you got him (Hagan) with all his muscles' and I said 'this old man didn't, Jimmy Prock flexed his muscles by ripping off that 3.96 number,'" said John Force.

John Force leaves the Circle K NHRA Winternationals with his 139th race win, the points lead and a new Funny Car both the elapsed time and speed record, something he hasn't done since 2004. "You take a 64 year-old-man and put him in a fire suit, you are Superman but I am back in the game and we are excited. Everything is just going right. I just don't get it. There is a lot going on and we are excited that PEAK joined us," said John Force, who's average elapsed time at Pomona was 3.999 seconds on his four winning runs.



### 2014 NHRA MELLO YELLO DRAG RACING SERIES SCHEDULE

**Feb. 6-9**  
Auto Club Raceway at Pomona • Pomona, CA  
**Feb. 21-23**  
Wild Horse Pass Motorsports Park • Phoenix, AZ  
**March 13-16**  
Auto Plus Raceway At Gainesville • Gainesville, FL  
**March 28-30**  
The Strip at Las Vegas Motor Speedway • Las Vegas, NV  
**April 11-13**  
zMAX Dragway • Charlotte, NC  
**April 25-27**  
Royal Purple Raceway • Houston, TX  
**May 16-18**  
Atlanta Dragway • Atlanta, GA  
**May 23-25**  
Heartland Park Topeka • Topeka, KS  
**May 29-June 1**  
Old Bridge Township Raceway Park • Englishtown, NJ  
**June 13-15**  
Bristol Dragway • Bristol, TN  
**June 19-22**  
New England Dragway and Motorsports Park • Epping, NH  
**June 26-29**  
Route 66 Raceway • Chicago, IL  
**July 3-6**  
Summit Motorsports Park • Norwalk, OH  
**July 18-20**  
Bandimere Speedway • Denver, CO  
**July 25-27**  
Sonoma Raceway • Sonoma, CA  
**Aug. 1-3**  
Pacific Raceways • Seattle, WA  
**Aug. 14-17**  
Brainerd Int'l Raceway • Brainerd, MN  
**Aug. 27-Sept. 1**  
Lucas Oil Raceway at Indianapolis • Indianapolis, IN

### COUNTDOWN TO THE CHAMPIONSHIP

**Sept. 12-14**  
zMAX Dragway • Charlotte, NC  
**Sept. 18-21**  
Texas Motorplex • Dallas, TX  
**Sept. 26-28**  
Gateway Motorsports Park • St Louis, MO  
**Oct. 2-5**  
Maple Grove Raceway • Reading, PA  
**Oct. 30-Nov. 2**  
The Strip at Las Vegas Motor Speedway • Las Vegas, NV  
**Nov. 13-16**  
Auto Club Raceway at Pomona • Pomona, CA



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