

## **NW LATE MODEL CHALLENGE SERIES OPENS SIXTH SEASON AT WVSO 'APPLE BLOSSOM 100' ON APRIL 30TH**

Graham, Wash. (March 28, 2005) – The NW Late Model Challenge Series and race teams from throughout the Northwest region will gather at Wenatchee Valley's Super Oval in East Wenatchee, Wash. for a 100-lap season opener event at the Northwest's premier high-banked paved 1/4-mile oval on Saturday April 30<sup>th</sup>, competing for over \$10,000 available in cash and bonus awards.

Over 25 late model super stock teams are expected to compete for the twenty-two main event positions available on one of the northwest's most pristine 1/4-mile tracks. This, the 50<sup>th</sup> scheduled event in the series six-season history, will be the first of three appearances for the Late Model Challenge Series (LMCS) at Wenatchee Valley's Super Oval (WVSO). This LMCS season-opener race, dubbed the 'Apple Blossom 100', is tied in with Wenatchee's annual Apple Blossom Festival and is expected to draw a large crowd to witness WVSO's first large caliber stock car event of the 2005 season.

For 2005, the series has secured eleven races at a total of eight venues throughout the Northwest. Eight of the races are LMCS point races, with three additional 'invitational' non-points events. The points races include three races at WVSO, two at Stateline Speedway ID, and one each at Montana Raceway Park MT, Western Speedway BC, and Evergreen Speedway WA. Several of these scheduled races have increased purse and/or travel monies offered.

The three 'invitational' races are scheduled at Mission Valley MT (same weekend as Kalispell LMCS event), Sun Valley Speedway BC, and an open-comp event at Pacific Raceway's 2.25-mile road course in Kent, WA. These non-point races give teams the opportunity to try additional venues and unique events, such as a two-race weekend – Montana Raceway Park & Mission Valley Speedway July 2<sup>nd</sup> & July 3<sup>rd</sup>; or the combined LMCS/WRL race at one of Canada's finest facilities - Sun Valley Speedway, BC; and also an opportunity to test their skills on a road course.

In the last five season's, the series has become one of the most respected and popular late model programs in the region, filled with budding young drivers and experienced veterans alike; drawing a variety of talent from all over the Northwest. In 2004, the Late Model Challenge Series averaged 26 cars per event with over 110 different teams participating during the 12-race season; with registered drivers from Eastern & Western Washington, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, and BC Canada. Last season, ten different drivers appeared in victory circle.

Ron Wolf of Auburn, WA, won the series only appearance at WVSO in 2004 on his way to securing last season's championship. He became the first-ever repeat champion in the series history, with championship titles in 2000 and 2004, and is the most prolific winner with nine feature event wins over the past five seasons. Additional drivers taking championship honors include: 2001 - Mike Sauls of Puyallup WA, 2002 - Ron Oline of Tacoma WA, and 2003 - Jason Hedrick of Spanaway WA

"The 2004 season was one of the most competitive years we've ran," Wolf stated. "With the variety of tracks we ran at and the large amount of talented drivers that participated at each event, it was definitely one of the toughest seasons to win a championship. We were just glad to get that win in at Wenatchee." Wolf may be running a limited number of races this season, but is attempting to compete at the opener April 30<sup>th</sup> at WVSO.

The series witnessed competitive racing throughout the 2004 season as evidenced by having ten different drivers appear in victory circle. Jay Sauls of Puyallup WA, who finished runner-up in a close points battle all season with Wolf, was the only driver to win two feature events (Mission Valley, MT & Roseburg, OR). "Those two wins were definitely highlights last season after having mishaps at a couple other races and coming up short on points for the season championship" commented Sauls. "Our car is ready and we are focused on the 2005 championship". Additional 2004 feature winners included: Brent Harris, Kelly Mann, Mike Zamora, Wade Bland, Dan Garber, Mike Longton, Jimmy Johnson, and Kevin Carver.

Rick Hager, of Mountlake Terrace WA, completed the 2004 season third in points. Racing his fifth season with the series, Rick ran strong all season with 8 top 10 and 4 top 5 finishes but finished the season without a single victory. "Our goal for 2005 is to focus on the championship and have fun in the process, hopefully getting a few wins this season. The series is an exciting, professional touring program that gives us the opportunity to compete with some of the region's top late model drivers."

"Wenatchee Valley's Super Oval is a great facility to kick off the 2005 season," stated Jerry Losch, LMCS director. "This season we elected to limit the series point races to eight events, with three additional 'invitational' races on the schedule. Our intent was not to make the schedule too heavy on the traveling teams, but also give teams the opportunity to additionally race at some new venues and formats."

WVSO's 'Apple Blossom 100' race schedule: Friday, April 29<sup>th</sup> - Practice 6 to 10pm with chili feed for drivers and crew. Saturday, April 30<sup>th</sup> - Hot laps start at 2pm with qualifying for all classes to begin at 6pm. Racing at 7pm. Front Gate opens at 5pm. Ticket prices: \$12.00 adult, \$7.50 student, \$3.00 kids

Contingency & Series Bonus Awards are provided by: Frank's Radio Service, NW Racing Enterprises, Pro-Pack Racing, K Motorsports, TRICK Racing Fuel, Blue Oval – Gus Carlson, Five Star Race Car Bodies, Oberg Race Products, ARP Stock Car Bodies & The Valvoline Cup Challenge.

Contributing Series Sponsors include; AMS Tire, Bay Cities Motorsports, Bart's Trailer Sales, Big John's Trophies, Don Small & Son's Oil Distributing Inc., Goodyear Racing Tire, M.E. Wright Motorsports Photos & Tanner Racing Products.

Please visit: [www.LateModelChallenge.com](http://www.LateModelChallenge.com) for the latest series news and racing information. Contact WVSO at 509-886-5801 or [www.WVSO.com](http://www.WVSO.com) .

### 2005 TOURING SCHEDULE

April 30	WENATCHEE VALLEY'S SUPER OVAL – E. Wenatchee, WA
May 21	STATELINE STADIUM & SPEEDWAY - Post Falls, ID
June 4**	SUN VALLEY SPEEDWAY – Vernon, BC
June 18	WENATCHEE VALLEY'S SUPER OVAL – E. Wenatchee, WA
July 2	MONTANA RACEWAY PARK – Kalispell, MT
July 3**	MISSION VALLEY SPEEDWAY – Polson, MT
August 6	STATELINE STADIUM & SPEEDWAY - Post Falls, ID
August 13	WENATCHEE VALLEY'S SUPER OVAL – E. Wenatchee, WA
August 20-21**	PACIFIC RACEWAYS – Kent, WA
September 3	WESTERN SPEEDWAY – Victoria, BC
September 17	EVERGREEN SPEEDWAY – Monroe, WA

(\*\* open competition event, non-LMCS points event)