

GLOBAL HOPE

Diary of a Jetsetter

HOPE GAINER

Miami, New York, Los Angeles, London, St. Tropez, Buenos Aires, Punta del Este, Phuket, Abu Dhabi & the Full Moon.

OFFSHORE POWER BOAT RACES REV UP SUNNY ISLES

We had picture perfect sunny skies over Sunny Isles as the race boats ripped through the water and sunbathers basked along the beach. This was the scene this weekend for the "Third Annual Sunny Isles Beach Offshore Powerboat Challenge." With temps in the upper 90's and one of the most extreme sports known to mankind along our shores with speeds up to 200 mph, it was one hot "WOW" weekend!



In fact, Miami is the birthplace of open ocean racing and high performance manufacturing. The sport however, actually dates back to 1904 in England. The race weekend kicked off with a rock concert and contest for Miss Offshore 2010 at Haulover Park. Saturday, about 50 boats raced to Bimini and back. Then on Sunday, [OPA \(Offshore Power Boat Association\)](#) race boats competed along the shores of Sunny Isles as part of the [GEICO Offshore Race Series](#).

This may have been the third time for Sunny Isles, but it was the first for me viewing offshore races. I am still a bit mystified by all the classes of boats competing...but am in awe of the teams and the potential dangers that can loom out at sea within seconds. They experience G-Forces six times the norm, incurring spine-bending pressures that test them to the breaking point. Helicopters, with jump paramedics follow above...for instant rescue!

This event provided a fan-friendly race environment. Spectators could walk amongst the dry pits, meet the crews, hop aboard a boat and grab an autograph. There were no stadiums, fences or off-limits spaces except for where the cranes are located to lift the boats. There was a charitable component for both [Make A Wish](#) and [Miami Marine Stadium](#), which was considered the capital of boat racing from 1964-1992 until it was destroyed by a hurricane.

I was the guest of the "Official Artist" for the event, [Stephen Gamson](#). I arrived at Jade Ocean and was invited up to Gamson's penthouse art studio to view the races from the 46th floor. This was the perfect vantage point to catch all the offshore powerboat action. It was almost surreal. I felt like I was in a Miami Vice TV show, circa 2010. This spectacular residential tower was built by the architect who designed the Burj in Dubai and has a similar sailboat motif with

futuristic shapes and curves. The floor to ceiling glass windows with stainless steel beams are space-age style! I was tempted to do an impromptu photo shoot in this bi-level penthouse with Gamson's art and the skylines as backdrops.

Looking down on the world from our penthouse perch was quite sensational. It was peaceful with the exception of the roaring powerboat engines, helicopters propelling and seagulls soaring around the sky. I took countless pix of the scenes below of both the bathers and the boats soaring by.

By late afternoon, the engines stopped and all the action moved to the Racer's Village at Haulover Park for the awards ceremony. There we got to see the boats and teams up close while artist Gamson signed posters and T-shirts with his artwork for the winners.

Ahhhh.....another day coming to a close in paradise!

HOPE INTERNATIONAL Contributing Editor, Hope Gainer is President of **Hope International**. She is a global imagemaker, marketer and branding expert with 30 years of lifestyle experience with a focus today on the luxury market. She produces unique upscale events around the world. Gainer is a founding member of the Florida Luxury Council and a contributor to several other luxury publications. She also represents spectacular "trophy" real estate properties.

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