

Ready to feel the rumble?

Are you ready to Feel the rumble of 5,000 horsepower and the spray of the Lake Michigan surf as a collection of the world's fastest and most colorful powerboats roar past the Michigan City Lighthouse Pier at speeds nearing 150 miles per hour.

The 2010 Great Lakes Grand Prix (sanctioned by Superboat International) will be held on Lake Michigan in Michigan City, Indiana, the week of Aug. 3-8.

The Great Lakes Superboat Grand Prix event will last six days and the schedule will include a kick off party for the community, golf outing at beautiful Briar Leaf Golf Course, a boat parade on Saturday evening through downtown Michigan City and a huge block and boat party where you will be able to meet the teams and get up close and personal with the boats. The block party will include a "Taste of Michigan City" featuring local restaurants and sponsored by the Michigan City Mainstreet Association. There will be a classic car show, a silent auction for charity, and Coast Guard rescue demonstrations. We also have scheduled a Venetian Boat Parade, several pre-race VIP events, VIP and corporate tent and seating at the race, and last but not least the race itself.

History of the Sport

Offshore powerboat racing was first 'recognized' as a sport when, in 1904, a race took place from the south-eastern coast England to Calais, France. In the United States, the APBA (American Power Boat Association) was formed during that period. The USA's first recorded race was in 1911, in California.

The sport increased in popularity over the next few years in the United States, with 10 races being scheduled during the 1917 season

The sport entered the 'modern' era in the 60's, with racers competing in mammoth events such as the Bahamas 500 mile race. During that time, the 'navigator' position in the race boat was extremely important (unlike in today's small, track-like circuits), as finding small checkpoints over a hundred miles of open ocean was a difficult endeavor.

Modern races are short, 'track' style events with much improved viewing for the spectators, and the different categories of boats have multiplied far beyond the 4 classes that were common through much of the 60's, 70's, and 80's.

Offshore powerboat racing is racing by large, specially designed ocean-going powerboats. It is typically point to point. Probably one of the largest, most dangerous, and most powerful racing machines of all, the extreme expense of the boats and the fuel required to participate make it an expensive and elite sport.

Many different types and classes of boats can compete in individual races, on the same course, at the same time. Offshores have been known as a "Rich man's" sport, however, now even people with normal pleasure boats can compete in newly formed classes (with minor safety modifications). This may include single or twin piston engine V-bottom

boats, single or twin piston engine catamaran style boats, four piston engine boats, and turbine boats.

Although there are team sponsors, this it is still an amateur sport financed by a mixture of private funding and commercial sponsors. It is moving more to a circuit racing style which makes for a better spectator experience.