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## **Orange Beach, Alabama to host the OPA World Championship Powerboat Races on October 14 - 17, 2010**

**Brick NJ** – The Offshore Powerboat Association – OPA – announced today the signing of a sponsorship agreement with the producers of Thunder on the Gulf that will allow for Offshore Powerboat Racing to return to the Gulf Coast on Friday October 15<sup>th</sup> and Sunday October 17<sup>th</sup>, 2010. This will be a two race World Championship event, meaning the boats will race twice, on Friday and Sunday. The teams with the most combined points between the two days of racing will be crowned OPA World Champions.

“We are really excited about bringing racing back to Orange Beach and we hope to make this an annual event.” said Edward Smith, President of OPA. Smith continues “Orange Beach is the perfect venue for our end of year World Championships and after a summer of oil concerns, the OPA teams are enthusiastic about bringing a big race to the Gulf Coast in order to draw in thousands of spectators.”

The boats will start to arrive on Tuesday, October 12<sup>th</sup> and stage in the Dry Pits. Thursday will be the first active day with boats testing on the race course from 1-4pm. Race #1 will take place on Friday from noon to 4pm. Then Saturday will be a day of repairing broken boats in the Dry Pits and practicing on the race course. On Sunday, Race #2 will start at noon and run until roughly 4pm. Viewing will be excellent anywhere along the race course as the boats will be about 150 yards offshore. The boats will race on oval going in front of most of the beachfront hotels and condos.

OPA expects to have at least 40 boats racing in a dozen classes ranging from 24’ seventy mile per hour single engine craft to Miss Geico, a 50’ seagoing 200 mile per hour, turbine powered missile. Over the years many people have seen Miss Geico on display at Boat Shows and now they can see her race in person.

OPA is also pleased to announce that his Highness, Sheikh Hassan Bin Jabor Al-Thani from Qatar will be racing in one of his two identical Lamborghini powered 43’ catamarans capable of speeds over 160 miles per hour.

Volunteer patrol boats and large turn boats are needed to assist with this race. Anyone interested should email Eddie Sue Winter –[info@thunderonthegulf.com](mailto:info@thunderonthegulf.com).

For more information about the OPA Racing Series, see [www.oparacingtour.com](http://www.oparacingtour.com) or to get involved as a racer with OPA see [www.oparacing.org](http://www.oparacing.org).