The Sea as a Race Course: Super Boats off of Clearwater Beach

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Have you ever sat on your oceanfront balcony, looked out at the shining sea, and thought, “Wouldn’t it be cool to have a high-speed boat race out there?”

Well, me, either. But if you’re a big NASCAR fan the thought may have crossed your mind and the Super Boat race organizers are here to make your dream come true. A few weeks back, I found myself on the balcony of a 16th floor suite at the Hyatt Clearwater in Florida, drinking a few Corona beers courtesy of event sponsor Bight House Cable, and watching some very fast boats rip it up right offshore. The Clearwater Super Boat races were on.

That video kind of says it all. The kinds of boats you see in the movies, usually manned by some badass drug smugglers or some heroes trying to catch them, racing around on a giant ‘track’ offshore. The Clearwater pier extends out right up to it though, so those people on the end probably got splashed. And probably wished they had brought earplugs.

This was the end of September and as you can see from this beach photo, still gorgeous and great for swimming. The event after this one is in Key West in November, but for next year you can catch one on a lake in Indiana and off the coast of New York City. See the race schedule at Superboat.com.
If you’re not into NASCAR on the water, come to Clearwater any other week and find a beach that really does rank among the best in the world. I’ve been to a lot of sandy spots on five continents and this stretch of coast is pretty tough to top. White sand, warm water, no rip tides. See the Clearwater Chamber of Commerce site or the Visit St. Pete Clearwater site. Find the best Clearwater Beach hotel deals with our partner Trivago.com.

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