

13th Annual Miami-Nassau

After three days of postponement because of rough water, race organizer Red Crise gave the go-ahead on October 11, and a high-powered fleet of 14 ocean racing powerboats roared out of Miami's Government Cut, bound for Nassau. Six finished.

The Cigarette, in which Don Aronow had already sewn up the 1969 UIM

World Championship, led the six across the finish line, setting a new record of 2h 50m for the 183.7-mile course, and giving Aronow the 1969 Bahamas Power Boat Championship as well. Dr. Bob Magoon, a Miami eye surgeon, placed second at 3h 10m with his 28' Cary *Andrea*, powered by four

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Aronow makes most of calm Bahamas water in generally rough 1969 Miami-Nassau Race.

Hennessys East and West

The 1969 Hennessy New York Grand Prix, raced on July 30, was much more of a race than the 1968 model. Instead of the old round-Long Island parade, the new triangular route keeps the boats offshore, and a two-week stretch of bad weather just before the race left the seas lumpy and more than normally strewn with flot-

sam. Since offshore is what this kind of racing is all about, the new course makes a lot of sense.

Pete Rittmaster, driving his 32' Bertram *American Moppie*, powered by two 475 hp MerCruisers, beat Pat Duffy in the 27' Magnum *Janie D*, powered by three 140 hp Mercury outboards, by only 30 seconds—after four

140 hp Mercury outboards, and the persistent Jerry Langer was only seven minutes behind him in his 32' Cary *Dog Catcher*, also pushed by four of the big Mercury outboards.

A lot of top ocean racing talent dropped out of this rough race, most because of engine failure. Aronow deserves all the silverware he collects for his repeated victories—this was his sixth straight UIM win—but some of the credit must also go to his 32' Cary, which he designed, his 475 hp MerCruisers, and the men who maintain them. *D.R.*

hours and 38 minutes and 222.5 miles of rough-water racing. Third across the line was Jerry Langer in the 32' Cary *Dog Catcher*, with four 125 hp Mercury outboards, posting a time of 4h 54m. Of the 16 starters, nine boats failed to finish—because of engine failures, collisions with flotsam, and navigation errors.

The Long Beach Hennessy Cup Race on August 23 was a victory for Don Aronow, but it wasn't an easy one. His 32' Cary *The Cigarette* was out of action for six minutes right after the start while mechanic Barry Cordingly went over the side to change a propeller. Six boats, including Peter Rothschild's *Thunderballs*—a sister to *The Cigarette*—passed him. But in the last

American results

In the third of the American Powerboat Association's races for the 1969 championship, John Stenback, the first outboard driver to win a major offshore powerboat race, established a world outboard speed record. The race was the Long Beach (California) to Ensenada (Mexico) and using three 140hp Mercurys, Stenback covered the 180-mile course in his 27ft Magnum at an average speed of 59.8 mph.

The race was won by Florida boat driver and designer Don Aronow. He drove a 32ft Cary marine hull of his own design, powered by two 475hp MerCruisers, setting a claimed average speed of 67.3 mph.

No-go *Cigarette*

The last event on the 1969 World Championship Offshore calendar was the Hennessy Miami Key West race on November 7. First place was taken by Bill Wishnick in the 31ft Bertram *Boss-O-Nova* powered by twin 475 h.p. MerCruisers, who set a new record for the 184-mile course of 2hr 53m 20s.

Unfortunately Don Aronow, whose *The Cigarette* led the small field of 14 competitors in the early stages, was forced to retire after rounding the first checkpoint with water pump failure.

This event gave further success to the outboard-powered craft and proved their reliability and favourable power/weight ratio by taking second and third places—both fitted with four 140 h.p. Mercs.



Hennessy's Schieffelin congratulates Rittmaster, crewmen Schiessenhaus and James.

50 miles of this 206-mile race Aronow overtook Rothschild by jockeying into an inside position that paid off in rounding a man-made island near the finish: *The Cigarette* finished at 4h 12m 16s—*Thunderballs* finished five seconds later. Pete Rittmaster in *American Moppie* finished third at 4h 23m 31s. *D.R.*