



WIN-WIN SITUATION

[DCB M41 CATAMARAN OWNER WIN FARNSWORTH WANTED TO DO SOMETHING SPECIAL FOR HIS 40TH BIRTHDAY. THANKS TO FAMILY AND FRIENDS—AND A COUPLE OF HELICOPTERS—HE PULLED IT OFF.]

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Above: From his assigned perch in a Robinson 44 helicopter, Florida-based photographer Jay Nichols captured the Eurocopter EC 130 carrying performance boater Win Farnsworth and his family on their epic journey. Below: With their parents Win and Melissa Farnsworth by their side, Taylor and Win Jr., struck a pose at the Nautical Inn Resort.

Win Farnsworth is no stranger to the Colorado River. In fact, it's his favorite aquatic playground, and the Denver-based performance boat lover takes to it as often as possible in *Silver Lining*, which isn't just a breathtaking M41 catamaran from DCB Performance Boats but was the first 41-footer from the El Cajon, Calif., high-performance catamaran and V-bottom builder. And no matter how many times he runs the twin Mercury Racing 1350 engine-powered cat on the Colorado River-fed Lake Havasu in Arizona, he never seems to tire of it. Desert Storm, DCB Regatta, Monster Bash—if it happens in Havasu, Win Farnsworth and his wife, Melissa, are there.

But that doesn't mean he isn't up for a fresh perspective on the river, especially if it fits into a special event—or in the most recent case two special events. And that's exactly what happened for Win and Melissa Farnsworth and their children, Taylor and Win Jr., in October



when the annual Monster Bash Poker Run on Lake Havasu more or less coincided with Win's 40th birthday.

On the same morning, the Farnsworth family got a birds-eye view of the Colorado River from both *above* and on the water. The whole caper was the vision of helicopter pilot Fred Young, who flies for Maverick Helicopters, a Las Vegas-based flight service that provides aeriels tours of the Grand Canyon, Hoover Dam, Lake Mead and more.



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“It was Fred’s idea—he came up with the whole deal,” Farnsworth said. “He said, ‘Why don’t we fly you and your family down the Colorado River for Monster Bash?’ Fred put it together, and it was one of the coolest things we have ever done as a family.”

Simple as it sounds, the logistics of the plan were anything but. It meant that Farnsworth had to fly on a friend’s private plane to Las Vegas at 6 a.m. Friday. From there he flew with Young in a Eurocopter EC 130 to the airport at Bullhead City, Ariz., just across the Colorado River from Laughlin, Nev., where they met up with photographers Jay Nichols and Todd Taylor. Waiting in Bullhead City with a pilot of its own was a Robinson 44 helicopter that would carry the photographers—trailing the larger EC 130—to the Nautical Inn Resort in Lake Havasu City.

The EC 130 was there to transport the Farnsworth family to Havasu—following the Colorado River all the way south from Bullhead City. But that meant Melissa, Taylor and Win Jr. had to fly to Bullhead City later that morning, on the same private airplane that had transported Win to Las Vegas, from Lake Havasu City, where they had arrived a day earlier with *Silver Lining* in tow.

Asked why his family didn’t simply fly to Las Vegas with him earlier that morning, Farnsworth laughed. “They didn’t want to get up that early,” he said.

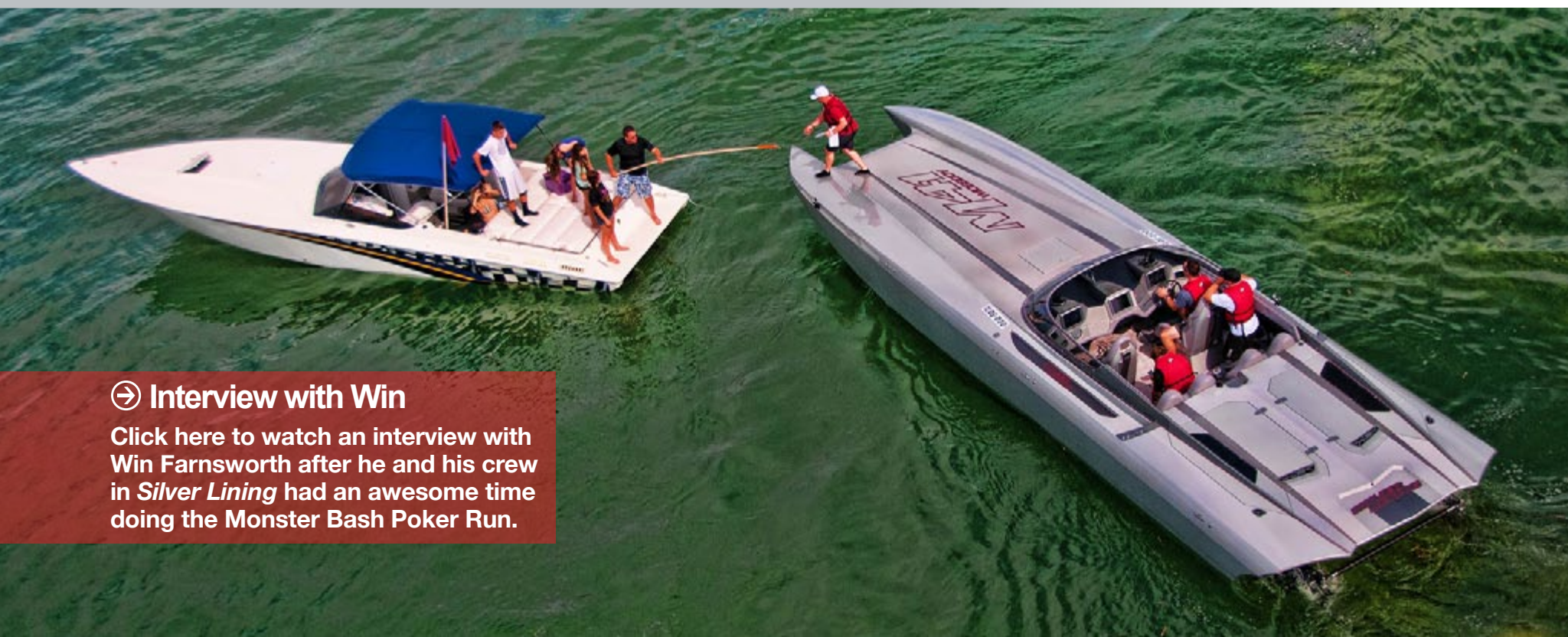
Once the entire crew had assembled in



With a pair of helicopters in the air, photo opportunities were aplenty on Lake Havasu for *Silver Lining*, the first DCB Performance Boats M41 Widebody catamaran built.

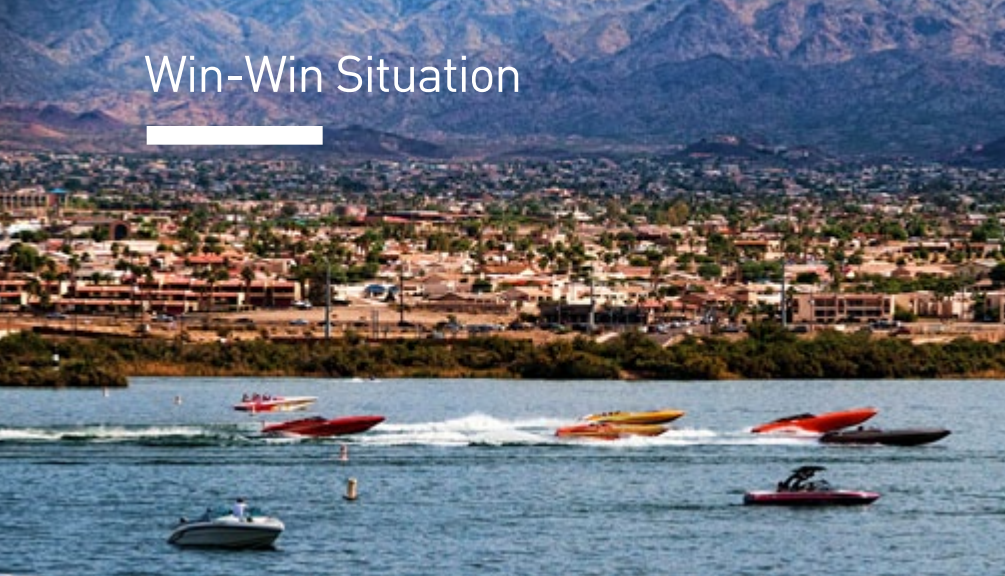
Bullhead City, both helicopters departed for Lake Havasu. The photographers in the smaller R-44 trailed the Farnsworths in the plush EC 130 most of the way.

“We were able to get air-to-air shots, and it was just the coolest thing, ever,” said Nichols, who Farnsworth brought out personally to chronicle his family’s adventure, as well as the entire Monster Bash event. “And if you’ve ever flown over the Colorado River, you know how breathtaking it is. That’s some of the most



➞ Interview with Win

Click here to watch an interview with Win Farnsworth after he and his crew in *Silver Lining* had an awesome time doing the Monster Bash Poker Run.



Clockwise from top: Sponsored by Teague Custom Marine, the Monster Bash Poker Run in October attracted boats from across the West Coast. Nichols used this R-44 helicopter with a temporary graphic nod to his client's 41-foot DCB to capture all of the action. For Farnsworth and his family, views such as this from above the Colorado River were the best parts of the adventure. The *Silver Lining* fleet parked at the Nautical Inn Resort was quite impressive.

beautiful country there is.

"They were able to land the Eurocopter on the grass at the Nautical Inn, so once the helicopter landed they pulled *Silver Lining* up next to it and we were able to get some great shots of all that," Nichols continued. "We spent the

"If you've flown over the Colorado River, you know how breathtaking it is. That's some of the most beautiful country there is."—Jay Nichols

rest of the day chasing Win and his family around the lake in the R-44, and on Saturday we did shots of everybody participating in the Monster Bash poker run. Thanks to Fred Young, the whole thing went flawlessly. Win made it possible for me to come out—but without Fred,

it would have never come together."

That he had participated in the annual DCB Regatta on Lake Havasu just a couple of weeks prior to his birthday did nothing to dampen Farnsworth's spirits. On Saturday night, the entire Farnsworth family, as well as some of his closest friends in the high-performance boating community, helped celebrate his birthday.

"The Monster Bash party Saturday night was great," Farnsworth said. "The whole thing worked really well. It was so cool."

Farnsworth will be back to Lake Havasu soon, likely even before the year is out. That's the beauty of a desert climate. And he'll be back many times before the next boating season ends. But short of another couple of helicopters and a milestone birthday, he won't have the same view. **SOTW**