



Lou at Large

Views of the Miami Boat Show

by MM's Louis Fondanova



happy to answer any questions and provide information about the boat builders, brokers, charters, and purchasing. On the first evening of the show, we were invited by Sabbex to attend a reception given by the South African Consulate General from New York. There we met many of the South African boat builders, brokers, and their sales associates. We wined and dined on great authentic SA cuisine and were entertained by native music and ceremonial dancers.

The nice sunny weather helped to kick off the Strictly Sail Show at Bayside Miamarina. One of the first things I noticed was a fairly good showing of multihulls (36 actually). As the vendors were setting up, there was a buzz around the show about "The Big Cat" from South Africa, *Kings Ransom*. The Silhouette 760 is quite massive and accommodating. Inside and out, *Kings Ransom* boasts beauty and prestige. The crew, along with tour guides and brokers, were very friendly and attentive to every detail as we toured the large cat.

Farther along the dock was the South African Pavilion, where they proudly sponsored many of the South African cats. Veda Raubenheimer and the friendly staff were very professional and greeted everyone with a smile and were



Seawind was well represented by an encouraging staff that was busy inviting people to visit their daily seminars. Although many of the seminars were standing room only, I did manage to get a seat and hear Dan and Carol Siefers' story of purchasing their new Seawind 1160 *Caprice* and sailing it from Australia to California. It was a very well planned presentation and the slideshow was informative. Carol had some great personal stories of their adventure, which you can read about on her blog at: <http://seifers.blogspot.com>.

The Multihull Company had an enthusiastic staff manning the booth where they provided information on sales and charters. They represented the 46-foot *Dolphin* and the *Moxie 37* catamarans at the show.

The Moorings booth was very nice and had a comfortable setting. The staff was quite busy recommending charter locations such as Tortola, Bahamas, and the BVIs... they had me hooked!

