

BACKGROUND

The Museum of Yachting

The Museum of Yachting celebrates the history and traditions of yachting by staging exhibitions, hosting regattas and events, and preserving vessels and artifacts. Through these activities, the museum explores the many ways in which yachting demonstrates human achievement in the arts, technology, and design. Individuals from around the globe have traveled to the museum's waterfront home at Fort Adams State Park in Newport, Rhode Island, to participate in classic-boat regattas and to learn about yachting's heritage in exhibits focused on the America's Cup, on the sport's compelling personalities, and on historic vessels and happenings. In 2007, the museum converged with the International Yacht Restoration School (IYRS), located across Newport Harbor. Together, these two Newport organizations are creating a rich educational living-heritage experience by coordinating exhibits, events, and restoration projects.

A Combined Destination In summer 2008, the Museum of Yachting and IYRS began coordinating exhibitions with classic-boat restoration projects—and together these two Newport organizations are creating a combined destination where members of the local community and visitors to Newport can see restorations underway and learn about the history of some of these watercraft in displays of historic photos and artifacts. Coordinating exhibitions and restoration projects is a unique approach to preserving maritime heritage. Not only do the displays chronicle past history; they also bring the genius and innovation of a past era to life as classic boats are restored and returned to the water. The museum also hosts some of the IYRS Continuing Education programs. New for 2009 is a summertime boatbuilding series, where students build canoes, kayaks, prams, and other small wooden vessels in classes that run from Monday through Saturday at either IYRS or the museum. Kits and instruction are provided by Chesapeake Light Craft. A water taxi ferries visitors between IYRS and the museum in summertime.

Summer 2009 Exhibits Three exhibits will run from mid-May to October at the Museum of Yachting, including:

- **"Imagination in Scale: The Practical Art of Ship and Yacht Models"**

There is something captivating about the toy-like quality of ship and yacht models that captures the imagination of children and adults alike, but models also serve as functional tools for yacht designers and builders. The museum's display captures the beauty, artistry, functionality, and painstaking detail of model making. The exhibit is coupled with the first public exhibition of the William H. Combs Miniature Model Collection, which will be housed in the newly restored Aquidneck Mill Building across the harbor at IYRS.

- **"The America's Cup – The Newport Years"**

The rich history of the America's Cup has been closely linked with Newport, ever since the race first came to this waterfront city in 1930. The Cup's Newport years mark a period of innovation in this legendary event, and the exhibit follows the technical developments of the boats sailed in the competition—from the majestic J/Class sloops to 12-Meters. The exhibit also pays tribute to the colorful personalities who came to Newport to battle for the coveted

prize—from Harold “Mike” Vanderbilt and Sir Thomas Lipton, to Ted Turner and Dennis Conner.

▪ **"Coronet: The Long Life and Revival of an Historic American Schooner Yacht"**

The museum's new exhibit on the 133-foot schooner yacht *Coronet* coincides with the restoration of the vessel at IYRS. Since her launching in 1885, *Coronet* has intrigued people with her majesty, mystery, and physical presence, and the yacht is remarkable for a number of reasons—most notably the fact that she still exists. The schooner yacht's contemporaries have all vanished, but *Coronet* has survived as a link to a Golden Age in yachting. From viewing photography and artifacts from *Coronet's* opulent interior, museum-goers will get a rare glimpse of life aboard a late Victorian-era yacht and learn about *Coronet's* colorful owners and her sometimes-controversial adventures at sea. After seeing the exhibition, visitors can ferry across Newport Harbor to watch shipwrights restore *Coronet's* hull.

The Annual Classic Yacht Regatta The Museum of Yachting's Annual Classic Yacht Regatta, sponsored by Panerai, celebrates its 30th running in 2009. The event transforms the waters off Newport into a panorama of majestic classic yachts and includes two days of racing, the regatta's traditional Classic Yacht Parade, and evening festivities; this annual happening draws a fleet that ranges from modern classics, to vintage yachts, to smaller one-designs—many with design pedigrees by Herreshoff, Hunt, Fife, and Sparkman & Stephens.

Converging Two Newport Nonprofits The convergence of the museum and IYRS in 2007 was designed to sustain the vitality of these two unique institutions. Both organizations educate the public about maritime history and its traditions, while working to preserve those traditions. IYRS's main focus is vocational education: training craftsmen in traditional boatbuilding, restoration, and marine systems. The museum educates the public at large through its events and exhibitions. "Many great schools are connected to a museum or cultural center. While a school may be focused on educating students and advancing research, a museum can take that knowledge to a wider public," said maritime artist John Mecray, co-founding trustee of both IYRS and the museum. Working together, IYRS and the museum are now able to offer a more robust product to the maritime community, and the move also supports the fiscal health of both organizations. With a nationwide increase in the number of nonprofit organizations over the last decade, donors are increasingly stretched and asking for consolidation where missions overlap.

Museum Hours/Admission The Museum of Yachting is open daily from mid-May to October, closed on Tuesdays. General admission is \$5; children under 18 and students (with a valid ID) are free; members of the museum and IYRS are free. In summer, a water taxi ferries visitors between IYRS and the museum grounds. For more information, visit www.moy.org or call 401-847-1018.

Museum Mission Founded in 1979, the Museum of Yachting is a not-for-profit (501c3) dedicated to preserving the culture of yachting by fostering education and enjoyment of its history through the presentation of vessels, artifacts, literature, events, and regattas.

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