

## **YACHTING AND WATERFRONT HISTORY FORUM**

Beginning on Tuesday, July 7th at 5:30 PM, the new Tiverton (RI) Public Library will kick off the first three sessions of "A Yachting and Waterfront History Forum", also scheduled for Tuesdays, July 28 and August 18. One of the aims is to connect people with collections of books on various maritime subjects, especially yacht designers and builders (power and sail), small boat voyaging, and the art and literature of yachting from about 1840 (early recognizable "yachting") to about 1970 (about ten years into the solid development of fiberglass boats).

The great schooners will be examined, including the Gloucester fishermen as well as catboats. The America's Cup history from its beginning, through 1937 (the J-Boat Era) will be addressed. The tentative list of subjects is long and varied, but an hour's open discussion on a particular book at each session will be an early feature, plus an hour's "show and tell" about your favorite nautical books and the ease with which you can share your pleasure with others.

The first three books to be discussed will be:

**July 7<sup>th</sup>, 5:30 pm:** "The Low Black Schooner", by John Rousmaniere; about the creation, voyage to England and contest involving the schooner yacht AMERICA there in 1851 for a trophy that would become known as the America's Cup, a prize that would be successfully defended for 130 years, before its loss in 1983.

**July 28<sup>th</sup>, 5:30 pm:** "The Boy, Me and the Cat", by Henry Mayhew Plummer; the compelling saga of a 1912 voyage in the catboat MASCOT, from New Bedford to south Florida and return, this before there was such a thing as the Intracoastal Waterway.

**August 18<sup>th</sup>, 5:30 pm:** "The Great Iron Ship", by James Dugan; the tale of the creation and career of a 693' steamship, with a double iron hull, six masts for sail, paddlewheels and a screw propeller, that was fifty years ahead of its time.

The series will initially be moderated by Harris Gruber, an avid "yachting historicist", who has spent a lifetime in the boating business and who has been a Guide at the Herreshoff Marine Museum in Bristol RI for the past five seasons.

All are invited to participate and to share information about their

collections with participants. For more information:  
[www.tivertonlibrary.org](http://www.tivertonlibrary.org)