

## **SAIL BOAT RACING**

### **By Richard Sorokin**

Put two sail boats out on the water and shortly you'll have a race. It seems to be that men love to race their boats. In some cases it was for money. The first to arrive from China with tea or the first in from the fishing banks got the best prices. Whatever the excuse, men love to race their boats.

Racing history:

The fastest schooner in 1905, to cross from New York to England was the *Atlantic*. The time was 12days, 4 hours. This record stood for an incredible 75 years.

With their holds full of Cod, this led to spirited racing to market between Canadian and American fishing schooners. In the 1920's and 30's none were more successful than the great *Canadian Bluenose*.

In the 1850's and 60's majestic clipper ships like the *Cutty Sark* and *Termopylae* would, after departing China ports on the same day, race their cargos of tea all the way to Europe or America.

In 1851 the schooner yacht *America* crossed the Atlantic and defeated 14 English ships to win the 100 Guinea Cup, which would bear its name and be known as the Americas Cup. The Americas Cup would be in the hands of the New York Yacht Club for 132 years of foreign challenges. Racing at this level was in the hands of the very wealthy. The yachts grew in size and complexity. Innovations in hull and sail design are the challenge at this level. Americas Cup racing continues at 3 year intervals and remains the premier event in international yachting.

It used to be that where there was a lake or bay you would find sailboats racing. Boats such as Moths, Dusters, Comets, G.P.14's, Lightening, Sunfish and Lasers to name a few of the variety raced. The highlight of every summer was the weekend regattas.

Sadly to report the sport on the dingy level is in decline. Many yacht clubs are gone and few compete with each other. The sport for some reason has lost its popularity. Maybe too much other attractions appeal to our youth.