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THE 12 METRE GOLDEN YEAR OF RACING BEGINS

The 12 Metre Golden Year of Racing will be announced to the media on November 22 at 4:00 PM at the Herreshoff Marine Museum in Bristol, Rhode Island.

A yearlong calendar of racing and events will celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the classic and elegant 12 Metre Class of boats in the America's Cup Competition. This "Golden Year" will highlight the famous 12 Metres with regattas in Boston, MA (immediately following the Volvo layover), Newport, RI, Edgartown, MA, Nantucket, MA and New York City, NY. The centerpiece of the "Golden Year" will be the 2009 12 Metre World Competition in Newport on September 22-27. Special events open to the public will include competition viewing, a dockside party, a lecture series, book signings and film presentations. The 12 Metre Worlds Co-chairs are Gary Jobson, W. H. Dyer Jones, and Jan D. Slee, 12 Metre Class President.

In 1958, the elegant 12 Metre Class made its debut in the America's Cup as the victorious *Columbia* (US16) defeated the British challenger, *Sceptre* (K17). In the 2009 Worlds, not only will *Columbia* again compete, but as many as 35 boats including 14 from Europe and Australia are anticipated. Fierce competition will capture memories of times past and attract sailing stars, fans and media from the world over. Not since the America's Cup competitions have the waters and winds of Rhode Island Sound hosted such a collection of 12 Metres.

A full calendar of events can be found at www.Goldenyear2009.com. The official charities for the year are Seamen's Church Institute of Newport (Newport, RI) and The Olin J. Stephens Young Sailors Fund. For sponsorship opportunities, contact jpickering@12mc.org.

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