

# One final hurrah for sailors

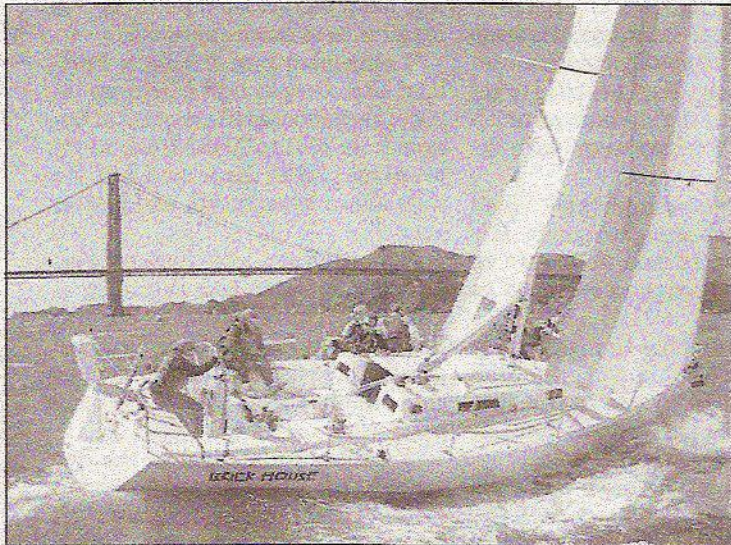
Racers gear up for season-ender on Bay

By Michelle Slade  
*IJ correspondent*

Considered the grand finale event for sailboat racing on San Francisco Bay every summer, the Big Boat Series is one of the most established sailing regattas held annually.

"Getting ready for Big Boat is like getting ready for graduation," said Paradise Cove's Kristin Lane, one of the few female skippers entered in this year's series that kicks off Thursday at 11 a.m. and runs through Sunday. "It's the last dance for the year so you make sure everything is in the best shape it can be — the hull, the sails, every little piece of equipment. People take it pretty seriously."

The series is synonymous with world class Marin sailors including Paul Cayard, John Kosteki, Dawn Riley and Dee Smith, all of whom cut their teeth and honed their skills racing in the bay's most famed sailing regatta, hosted by the St. Francis Yacht Club since 1964. Although this year's event is light on local fame due to their participation in international events on different continents, it opens the hatches of opportunity for other



Kristin Lane photo

**BACK FOR MORE:** Paradise Cove's Kristin and Peter Lane will be sailing their boat, Brickhouse, in the J-105 fleet in the Big Boat Series this week on the Bay.

## BIG BOAT SERIES

Annual sailing regatta hosted by the St. Francis Yacht Club near the Marina Green in San Francisco.

► Starts Thursday at 11 a.m., runs through Sunday

established local sailors as well as up and coming racers to set their sights on Big Boat success.

In their second consecutive year racing Big Boat, Lane and her husband Peter will again sail their J-105, Brickhouse. Last year they finished eighth overall out of a 32-boat J-105 fleet. This year's J-105 fleet of 35 boats, including 10 entries from Marin, doesn't unnerve the Lanes.

"We don't like to think about the end result," Kristin Lane said. "We've had a few practices with our crew and our focus is

on our team working together to sail the boat the best we can. It's a tough, challenging fleet and we would be ecstatic to make it in the top 10. We'll be playing it smart as just one or two bad races can impact the final result."

Last year's first- and second-place winners in the J-105 fleet, Marin sailors Scott Sellers (on Donkey Jack) and Tim Russell (on Aquavit) are competing again. They are hoping for fair winds to take home more Big Boat silverware this year.

Long time competitive sailor and Tiburon resident, Peter Stoneberg, is skippering the only Schock 40 in the IRC fleet, Secret Squirrel, so named for its onboard gadgetry according to Stoneberg. The Schock is a fast, technologically challenging monohull that Peter loves to drive.

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