

# SAILING: Peter hoping Squirrel gets good rating

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"My passion is speed and competition, which I fuel through racing fast cars and fast boats," Peter said. "This is the first time I've skippered Secret Squirrel in Big Boat and the results will depend largely on how we are rated."

Establishing the ratings that determine the division a boat will race in can cause contentious issues with boat owners and regatta management. According to Stoneberg, part of his crews' preparation this week is managing the re-rating of Secret Squirrel.

"We've had to change a few things to make it more handicap friendly. The rules tend to punish new technology until it has been around long enough to establish a handicap."

Stoneberg likens racing the Schock to something between a monohull and a multihull as it carries a canting keel turn foil system with a rudder located at the stern and one at the bow for speed optimization.

"I think we'll do well," Stoneberg said.

Back again in the J-120 fleet is Belvedere's Rick Wesslund, owner and skipper of El Ocaso. A relative newcomer to racing in the past 5 years, Wesslund made a solid foothold in the national J-120 standings this year and will be the team to keep an eye on this week.

Marin crew on board El Ocaso for Big Boat include Tad Lacey (Tiburon), Tate Lacey (Tiburon), Bill Melbostad (Tiburon), Russ Mabardy (San Rafael) and Bruce Davenport (Tiburon).

Wesslund is delighted that there will be as many as 10 J-120s on the start this week, including the only other J-120 from Marin, Oui B5, owned and skippered by John Sylvia of Belvedere. There is no other 40-foot One Design class on the Bay and more boats naturally means more competition.

San Rafael's Andy Costello hopes he made a good choice after recently trading his Sydney 38 Double Trouble, which he raced to victory in last year's Big Boat, for a One Design 35 (ID35), also of the same name. If officials are willing and able, Costello's ID35 will have a new name — Low Speed Chase — by the time the first gun fires Thursday.

The "old" Double Trouble will be skippered by Adam McAfee of Mill Valley and his Marin based crew. New owner Jay Bradford is also new to Big Boat. He says his crew have been practicing as much as possible.