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'Sewer Rat' a key Double Trouble crewer

Jim Barton's son, Jack, provides more than extra weight for Big Boat Regatta

By Michelle Slade
IJ correspondent

San Francisco's historical Big Boat Regatta is not just for old guys. Jack Barton, a 19-year-old from San Anselmo, will prove that this week when he boards Double Trouble, a Sydney 38 design sailboat, with his dad Jim Barton.

Barton, a former Olympian who scored bronze at the 1996 Atlanta Games in the Soling Class, has raced Big Boat since 1982 but this will be the first time he will compete with son Jack at his side.

"We were weighing in about 70 pounds light on Double Trouble so I offered up Jack. He has to



JACK BARTON



JIM BARTON

take a few days off school but he may learn a thing or two he wouldn't learn at school," Barton said with a laugh.

While Dad is tactician aboard

Double Trouble, Jack will be "rail meat" and "sewer rat," helping bring the spinnaker inside the boat after it is doused. A capable sailor, Jack sails regularly on his Optimist dinghy from the San Francisco Yacht Club. Double Trouble is helmed by owner Andy Costello from Novato.

As many as 200 Marin sailors have their sights set on any one of the six highly sought after historic perpetual trophies in this week's Big Boat Series on San Francisco Bay. The regatta is

regarded by sailors as one of the world's premier sailboat racing events and will host a fleet of more than 100 boats in 12 one-design and handicap classes. Races begin today.

Participating talent includes Russell Coutts, the highly-regarded skipper and helmsman of America's Cup fame, as well as top Marin sailors who will take the heat at the local level. Philippe Kahn, Silicon Valley

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BIG BOAT REGATTA

- ▶ **What:** 41st Big Boat Regatta, the largest regatta in the world, is held by the St. Francis Yacht Club. More than 100 boats compete in 12 classes.
- ▶ **When:** Today through Sunday. Races begin at 11 a.m.
- ▶ **Where:** The races will be held on San Francisco Bay between Treasure Island and the Golden Gate Bridge. The best vantage points are from Pier 39 and the Marina District. The finish line is at the St. Francis Yacht Club Race Deck on the Marin Peninsula.
- ▶ **New twist:** For the first time, this year's regatta will race out past the Golden Gate Bridge and into the Pacific Ocean.

SAILING: Regatta to race out of bay

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entrepreneur, Marin resident and owner of Pegasus Racing, a top-ranked sailing team, is entered on his recently launched state-of-the-art Transpac 52.

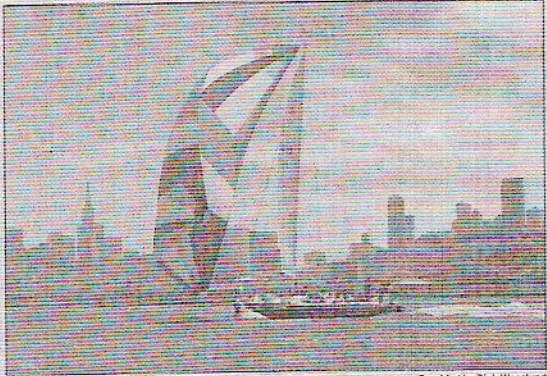
"We're racing our brand new TP 52 that just won the Waikiki Offshore and the TP 52 Transpac class," an excited Kahn said. "There will be three other TP 52s as well as bigger and smaller boats that we need to beat. The competition will be tough but it's going to be a great series."

The Kahn family recently moved to Marin from Santa Cruz to satiate their sailing passion.

"We love sailing the bay," Kahn said. "My 8-year-old girl sails an Optimist and my 16-year-old a 49er and a Skiff 18. Our new home in Tiburon is awesome — we can step into a dinghy right off our dock. You can't beat that."

Kahn's sailing crew this week includes locals Kyle Gunderson and Eric Arndt, as well as Jeff Madrigali, a former Marin resident.

Rick Westlund, the Tiburon-based skipper and owner of El Ocaso in the J120 class, will race Big Boat for his



Provided by Rick Westlund

FULL SPEED AHEAD: The El Ocaso races on San Francisco Bay. El Ocaso will be one of the boats entered into the Big Boat Regatta, which begins today on the Bay.

fifth consecutive year with Marin crew Pat Lopez, Tad Lacey, Randy Bigony and Russ Mabardy. El Ocaso finished third overall in class in Big Boat 2005, and is currently tied for third overall for the racing season going into this week's regatta.

For the first time in its long history, this year's regatta will race out of the San Francisco Bay, past the Golden Gate Bridge and into the Pacific

Ocean, accommodating the size, speed and draft of the maxis so that they can perform to capacity on a longer course.

Spectators can enjoy a viewing range from Pier 39 and the Marina District, between Treasure Island and the Golden Gate Bridge, with the finish line set off the St. Francis Yacht Club Race Deck. For more information, visit www.stfyc.org.