

Sea rescue men to forge bonds with sailors



Ahead is a new test at sea for these Station 6 National Sea Rescue Institute members. They will take part in the national L34 yacht championships in Algoa Bay in May, on the yacht Rainbow Runner. They are (from the left) PAUL DARKINS, ROSS ENGLER, GAVIN FISCHER, Springbok yachtsman MURRAY WEBBER (who will skipper the yacht), ALAN IMPEY and DOUG ROBERTSON. Another crew member, Alan Paulsen, was not aboard when the picture was taken.

NSRI enters yacht race for 1st time

Weekend Post Reporter

THE National Sea Rescue Institute is soon to compete for the first time in a deep-sea yacht race.

A skipper and crew of six from the NSRI's Station 6 in Algoa Bay will take part in the L34 national championships in Algoa Bay from May 5 to 11, in the yacht Rainbow Runner.

The reason for competing was to strengthen bonds between NSRI and the yachting fraternity, said the NSRI skipper, Springbok yachtsman Murray Webber.

"We want to test ourselves and also improve links between NSRI and yachtsmen — we have a mutual interest in the sea," he said.

About 17 Lavranos-designed L34s, from PE, Cape Town, Durban and East London, with some of South Africa's top skippers at the helm, will compete in the nationals.

Rainbow Runner is owned by Chris

Middleton, of PE, who will be shore manager for the NSRI team.

Murray Webber, who has been sailing "since I was four years old", took part in the Cape-to-Uruguay race and was trained by John Martin, with whom he sailed the Round Britain and Ireland race in 1985.

He has logged tens of thousands of sea miles.

The crew members are Paul Darkins, Gavin Fisher, Ross Engler, Doug Robertson, Alan Impey and Alan Paulsen, with combined sailing experience of 20 years.

Murray accompanied Chris Middleton, his wife Margaret, and their family on a six-month cruise of the Indian Ocean islands in Rainbow Runner.

They returned to PE in December.

The NSRI crew have started training after work and at weekends for the championships.

A tyre company has agreed to sponsor the NSRI for the event.