

Cape to Rio challenge

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THE world famous Cape to Rio yacht race is once again the main concern for a number of South African yachtsmen brave enough to face the sea, sun and competitors in this annual event.

The one yacht which is certainly a new entrant and has the unusual sponsorship of Chubb Electronic Security is the Chubb Protector.

The crew of six includes well-known Eastern Cape yachtsman Alan Straton, who is making his debut in this prestigious race in the 43-foot Montevideo.

"The trip from Port Elizabeth to Gordon's Bay was one of mishap and mayhem. After we left the windy city, we had an electrical fire on board, then we lost steerage and finally when we dropped anchor, we found the anchor was damaged," said a frustrated Straton.

"I sold my business to make this trip and my wife and I plan to make the most of it," added Straton from Gordon's Bay.

The Chubb Protector is expected to complete the

race in 21 to 23 days starting on January 2.

"The yacht has participated in all the significant South African off-shore competitions and we fully expect to give a good performance in this race," said Straton.

The prize giving will be on February 4 in Rio and all the yachts will have completed the race and be ready for their return trip.

"With the annual Rio carnival taking place a few weeks later some of the yachts and crew will stick around to join in with the festivities but my wife and I will fly back as soon as possible," said Straton.

Two other crew members will replace the Stratons and another couple from the crew as the return trip is not as difficult and only four members are necessary.

The Chubb Protector will be competing in the Continental yacht race later in the year and the outcome of this race will determine the crew.

It is the first time the alarm company has been involved with yachting and hopefully their involvement will continue.