TP stands for Trans Pacific, and what today is the TP52 international “box rule” Class, recognized by the ISAF, started life as a mixed bag of 45ft to 55ft downhill sleds designed with the biennial epic San Francisco to Honolulu yacht race front of mind.

Bill Lee’s Santa Cruz 52, another yacht in SOL’s boatshed, hence, is an early more sedate ascendant of the TP52.

Nowadays, TP52s are not only mighty quick downwind (for a fixed keel monohull), but blade equally impressively upwind. SOL’s own TP52 polar came into being in 2010, and has had a very active online racing career since then, as you can see at the link below.