



Charter Trip Report



Nearly 100 RISAA members are awarded spots on fishing charter trips each year simply by winning random drawings at the monthly meetings. One member on each trip agrees to write a short story to share the experience with all members. *It should be noted that not every trip can be guaranteed to catch fish. The trip brings RISAA members together and provides an enjoyable day or night on the water. Catching fish is a bonus.

FLIPPIN' OUT CHARTERS • Capt. B. J. Silvia

story by PHIL DUCKETT

It finally happened. The squid fishing charter raffled off in the spring with **Captain B.J. Silvia** of Flippin' Out Charters is in the books.

Manny Santos and I (**Phil Duckett**) won the trip at the March meeting which was originally scheduled for the night of May 10. But the trip was postponed because the squid bite was not happening in early May. Then I went on extended travel, and upon my return, Manny took off to Europe and by the time he returned, we had missed the spring run, such as it was. Captain BJ offered up a sea bass and fluke trip instead, but we opted to hold out for a night of squidding during the fall run.

The night of Thursday the 12th of October was forecast to be warm and windless. Manny and I met at the rotary in Newport and then met up with Captain BJ and **Greg Vespe**. Greg had been squidding a few times already and the hope was that his scouting would pay off.

We launched Captain BJ's 18-foot center console at the Coaster Harbor marina which gave us easy access to the squidding grounds under the Newport Bridge and Harbor; the center console provided plenty of room the spread out.

The forecast turned out to be only half accurate. While it was a warm night (for October) in the 60s, the wind was 10-15 kts from the south with a strong new moon ebbing tide creating a moderate wind against tide chop.

The wind against the tide and strong currents aren't normally a problem for BJ as his charter fleet is fitted with Minn-Kota trolling motors featuring Spot-Lock eliminating the need to anchor. But an electrical problem (later revealed to be that BJ forgot he lent the jumper cable linking two 12V batteries to provide 24V for the Minn-Kota to friend Charlie Soares) rendered it inoperable and the anchor was put into service. Good thing Greg was aboard!

The game plan was to start out fishing the shadow line under the Newport bridge. After a short ride from the marina in "new moon dark",



Phil Duckett with his first squid with Greg Vespe looking on.

made worse with a layer of fog, we arrived at the bridge and had it to ourselves.

It took a few minutes as BJ accessed the drift, and Greg set the anchor. But once the anchor was set Manny's jig didn't make it to the bottom; he gently pulled in the first squid before I was even in the water, a nice 10-12 incher. Minutes later I was on the board and thoughts of an epic night with full buckets swirled through my head.

Manny had setup with a 3-jig spread with 3 ounce bank sinker and I had two mini's (pink and blue) with 2 ounce weight. Manny did a better job holding bottom and I switched out with different colors, but the initial flurry and pace slackened while the current and wind strengthened.

We moved a couple times trying to find hungry aggressive squid at different places under the bridge, but the initial excitement and quick bites failed to materialize under the bridge. After a few moves with only about a dozen squid to show between us, Captain BJ said to pull 'em up and we headed out to find a better spot, hopefully with a little less current. (to page 39)



Squid double-header

Flippin' Out
Fishing Charters
and
Flippin Out Fluke Rigs
Capt. B.J. Silvia
401-529-2267
Call for Rates & Reservations
FlippinOutCharters.com
Member BSilvia54@yahoo.com

