



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.

CAROL J CHARTERS • Capt. Paul Johnson

report by JEFFREY RICHARDS

A day fishing is better than, well, just about anything. I have been fortunate to win a trip the last 6 years through RISAA. Not owning a boat, I always look forward to these outings as a “special” opportunity. And so it was for this trip with **Captain Paul Johnson** on **Carol J Charters**.

Our Fluke and Seabass outing was set for 6:00 AM on August 13, where we’d be motoring to Block Island for some great fishing. There were, however, some potential weather issues that cropped up the night before our outing. However, Captain Paul was right on top of the latest forecast, and through his constant contact with me, we determined that the outing would be a GO and had everyone ready to depart on time.

The morning was overcast but warm when members **Jen Hirst**, **Ron Porter**, **John Partridge**, and I (**Jeff Richard**), the 4 winners of this charter raffle, met up with Captain Paul and his nephew at the dock in Galilee. Once onboard, we cruised out of the harbor and into some chop out in Block Island Sound.



(l-r) Ron Porter, Capt. Paul Johnson, John Partridge, Jen Hirst and Jeff Richard.

The *Carol J*, a 31 foot down east style cabin cruiser, handled the seas beautifully. We all stayed dry under the roomy cabin while we proceeded to The Block. Paul’s original plan was to head over to the east side of Block, out of the wind. However, Paul determined that the wind wasn’t bad, and instead we hit the west side in search of some cow stripers.

You might have noted that this trip was advertised as a

“Fluke and Seabass” trip ... Captain Paul had called an audible as the fluke fishing had been non-existent for the previous few weeks. Paul explained that he feels his job is to put his clients onto fish, and believes in being up-front about his reports and expectations so clients won’t be disappointed. This is certainly refreshing and appreciated. While it is called “fishing” and not “catching”, having a reasonable chance at hooking something is what it’s all about.

Our first foray of the day was jigging stripers with a parachute jig, aka snapping wire. This was new to me. Not your typical trolling, this is all about dragging the large parachute jig several hundred yards behind the boat and repeatedly “jigging”

it, all to replicate squid. This was a whole lot of work. We constantly rotated through the two rods being used.

After a bit, Ron hooked the first fish of the day; and schoolie sized striper. The skunk was off. **(to page 38)**



Ron hooked up with a striper while jigging

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