



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.

STUFF IT CHARTERS • Capt. Joe Pagano

story by RALPH ORLECK

On Monday evening, June 18, RISAA charter winners **Mel Blake, Ted Nataly, and Ralph Orleck** met at 7:00 in the Pettis Boat Yard for an evening of fishing in the Gaspee area of Warwick with Captain Joe Pagano of **Stuff It Charters**. Originally scheduled for 6:00, Captain Joe pushed us up an hour to improve our chances to catch the pogies needed for fishing.

The weather was initially cloudy and rain was in the forecast. Nonetheless, we remained hopeful but still brought our rain gear with us – just in case. This turned out to be a good decision.

Stuff It is a 32 ft. Seacraft Master Angler Center Console boat. Powered by twin Evinrude Etec outboards, this boat gave a great ride both at a slow speed and also at a high speed. Captain Joe has all the latest electronics on board, insulated coolers, and lots of open space for fishing.

Our trip began with a search for pogies on top ready for snagging. Finding none, Captain Joe put out the bait net. We all watched as the net slowly bowed as a result of the pogie action. After checking the net twice, Captain Joe declared we had all the pogies we needed and it was time to anchor and start fishing.

Captain Joe set each of us up with spinning reels. The pogies were chunked and cast away from the boat. An additional rod with a boat reel was cast and

placed in the rod holder. This was the rod that bent first.

Captain Joe then handed the rod to me and explained how to land the fish by waiting a few moments to set the hook. Before you know it, a striper in the range of 32"-36" was on the board.

Ted hooked up next. Ted's fish was barely hooked, but Ted was still able to get the fish next to the boat. Captain Joe alertly got the gaff and got the fish in the boat. Another beautiful keeper striper was in the boat!

As luck would have it, Mel hooked up next. Rods were brought in and Captain Joe guided Mel as to the proper technique to land the fish. Consequently, our third keeper striper was now in the boat.

Around 10:00 PM, the rain and wind picked up and the lightning lit up the sky. "The weather started getting rough. The tiny ship was tossed." But unlike the characters of Gilligan's Island, our three hour tour ended with us safely back at the marina where Captain Joe filleted the fish.

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Member (l-r) Mel Blake, Ralph Orleck and Ted Nataly



Ted with an after dark striper

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