

## CHARTER TRIP REPORTS

This year, over 100 RISAA members will be awarded fishing charter trips simply by winning random drawings at the monthly seminars. One member on each trip usually 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 the extra bonus.

### LEGACY CHARTERS • Capt. Keith Sullivan

story by Len Duffy

The six winners of the charter raffle aboard Captain Keith Sullivan's 36 foot Cruiser, Legacy, was announced at the end of RISAA's July meeting. The winners were **Jack Carney, Fred Jarosz, Chuck Dore, John Silveira, Bob Marco** and myself (**Len Duffy**). Our trip would be fishing for striped bass at Block Island on Sunday, August 17 at 5:30 a.m.

Our group met at 5:00 a.m. in the public parking lot across from the Point Judith Yacht Club. We decided to meet there as parking is limited to two vehicles at the captain's dock. We car pooled and arrived at the dock just before 5:30 a.m.

As we cast off, Captain Sullivan and his son, Keith Jr. (Bubb), who is also the mate, welcomed us aboard. We motored our way through Point Judith Pond, past the port of Galilee, the breakwater wall, and headed toward Block Island. The morning weather was excellent, sunny with a very light breeze. All aboard were anticipating a good day of fishing for stripers.

On the way to the Island, Captain Keith asked the group if we wanted to try for a lot of fish or big fish. Our group chose the big fish option. He explained we'd be trolling wire line rods with tube and worm attached. He said he also used 9ER's umbrella rigs to catch multiple fish, but generally the fish tend to be smaller.

We arrived at the corner of the Southwest Ledge in little time due to the Cruiser's twin inboard engines and one foot seas. Captain Keith slowed the boat to trolling speed, while "Bubb" hooked clamworms on to the two wire line setups. Keith piloted the boat over an area he knows well until the fishfinder indicated a group of fish suspended near the bottom. He instructed Bubb to let out a couple of sections of the specially marked wire line he uses as we passed over the fish. He told the group to get ready for a fish.

In shore order one of the rods bent over with a hookup. The first fish was landed! It was a striper just over 28 inches. We were on the fish!

The next fish turned out to be the fish of the day. Bob Marco was up when the fish hit. Everyone knew this was a good fish by the amount of drag the fish was taking and the bend in the rod. Bob tightened the drag, and after a couple of good runs, and what seemed like a long time, finally brought the fish to the stern of the boat. Bubb gaffed the fish and brought it over the rail. It was a big striper, a big headed fish, longer than the cooler it was supposed to be stored in.

Everyone guessed on the length and weight. 40 pounds?

Someone guessed 46. Even the Captain said this was a good fish that got his pulse going when it was laid on the dock of the boat.

Bubb weighed and measured the fish. It was 48 pounds and 40 inches long!

The fishing continued with a mix of respectable stripers and big bluefish landed. Second largest striper of the day was a 33 pound fish caught by Chuck Dore. The bite slowed after a couple of hours and eventually died off completely in the late morning. Our group ended this part of the trip with four big bluefish and five keeper stripers.

The Captain asked if we wanted to try some fluke fishing. Of course

everyone said yes. We moved to the North Rip and had some fun catching five "shorts". We moved again and tried one last spot outside of the center wall. After catching another short fluke, the wind picked up and the day's fishing came to an end.

Captain Keith is a friendly, knowledgeable and experienced captain. He is happy to talk fishing up on the bridge and point out how the electronics aid in fishing the fish. Keith Jr. is an excellent mate. He brought all the hooked fish over the rail and filleted the catch at the end of the day.

We had an excellent day of fishing aboard the Legacy. The boat is spacious with room for six to relax and fish. Our group agreed we'd be happy to fish on this boat again.

Thanks Captain Keith and RISAA!



The Legacy Charter winners with their fish



Bob Marco with 48 lb. striper

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