



Rod Bender Charters

Jeffrey Johnson (JJ) - Owner/Captain

Success Magazine: JJ, you have over ten years' experience as a NYS licensed guide on Lake George. How did you get started as a charter captain?

Jeffrey Johnson: This is my fourteenth season as a full-time guide on Lake George and my seventh as owner/operator of Rod Bender Charters. I previously worked for two other Lake George charter companies where I concentrated on learning the fishing side of the business and gained valuable experience.

SM: What kind of boat do you use and what are some of its features?

JJ: The Rod Bender is a twenty-eight foot Baha Cruiser sport-fisherman with a hardtop and enclosed cabin. The 10'6" beam and open deck allows customers to fish comfortably even when the water gets rough. The boat is fully equipped with two fishfinders with GPS, downriggers, planer boards, over twenty different rod/reel

combos, and more. A prominent feature is the autopilot for trolling; customers do not need to steer the boat and can watch others in their party catch fish instead of driving. There is also a marine toilet in the cabin—women and children appreciate this.

SM: What do you fish for?

JJ: Primary targets are lake trout and landlocked salmon from April through October. Lakers are the bread and butter fish—they are no longer stocked and the population is thriving in Lake George. Salmon are stocked every year by New York State DEC. We also fish for bass, both small and large mouth, during the summer and into fall. Bass are preferred by anglers looking for plenty of action; we catch upwards of one hundred fish some evenings.

SM: How have you turned your love of wildlife and nature into a profitable business? Why do you excel at what you do? Do you have any plans to branch out into other areas?

JJ: Hard work and adaptability are the two factors that have allowed me to be successful as a fishing guide. Customers often comment that I work harder than any other guide they have fished with and that makes them want to come back. While there are many things that can not be controlled, I always try my best to provide customers with the best fishing experience possible on any given day by adjusting to current conditions.

The open water season on Lake George keeps me busy from April to October, but I would like to find more work in the off-season. Currently, I take a few clients ice fishing in the winter but there isn't a big demand for these trips. I am considering purchasing another boat to set up a guiding business in Florida during the winter months, where there is plenty of business.



ROD BENDER CHARTERS

Fishing - Lake George
Lake Trout, Salmon, Bass
4,6,8 Hour Trips Available

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