



# Anchorline

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE GRADY LIFE

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Aaron Etches' *Bimini 306* around  
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## Dear Grady Friends:

This time last year we couldn't fathom the roller coaster ride we were about to take. COVID-19 hit manufacturing companies hard, as many were forced to close their plants in the spring. The Grady-White team quickly realized the need to focus on the safety of our employees and suppliers in all kinds of ways – while working hard to deliver boats to our customers who wanted and needed them so much. As the weeks and months unfolded, the demand for boats increased in ways we never imagined, and our team came together to do what we love – build boats that delight our customers!

Flexibility was the name of the game as we *literally* worked alongside our suppliers to deal with the challenges that came along. Most specifically, labor disruptions due to illness and quarantine, then part shortages, both domestically and internationally, that came as a result of the lack of available labor for manufacturing and distribution. In fact, there's never been a time in our history that we have had to be more in sync with our supplier partners. While we worked to hire more people here, we also helped some of our suppliers to hire more people too. We even sent some of our team to their factories to help make needed parts, so we could keep delivering your boats. Now that's REAL teamwork! Meeting daily even now, we work together to keep the production lines moving with a sharp focus on safety and quality.

While there are many things about 2020 we hope to never experience again, we are very excited to keep celebrating the joy of boating that was invigorated this past year! Young and old alike have realized its bounty of benefits and 2021 holds the promise of even more fun and adventure.

All of these challenges just reinforce our deep held belief in the true value of our relationships – with our family, friends, co-workers, suppliers, dealers, and customers. Across the globe, we have all faced personal difficulties during the pandemic, our team included, but we continue to have faith, help each other in many different ways, and hope for better days ahead.

With the introduction of the vaccine, the future looks very bright! As life returns to some new kind of normal, let's remember and build on the fun, the relaxation, and the extraordinary experiences we've had on our Grady-White boats and keep sharing those Grady moments!

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Eddie Smith, Jr.".

Eddie Smith, Jr., Chairman, CEO

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kris Carroll".

Kris Carroll, President



**Jamie Montero fishes south of Puerto Rico** in the Caribbean waters on his *Bimini 306*.

We love receiving images and news of families whose love of boating has been getting them through this pandemic. Please keep sharing them!

## ON THE COVER

**Aaron Etches enjoys cruising, fishing and camping on his *Bimini 306*** around the Bay Islands of Honduras. He says the boat is an incredible family and fishing boat that he's looking forward to enjoying for many more years.

# Grady Trip Boosts Couple's Spirits During and After Health Challenge

After Larry's insistence that they would be hauled off to jail if they didn't put a boat on the lift behind their new Florida condo, Tina Collings chuckled and gave in to her husband's boat request. All kidding aside, they both thought it would be fun having a boat at their "winter" home in Punta Gorda. Since they love their Grady-White *Gulfstream 232* at their home in Anacortes, Washington, they knew they would buy another Grady-White for their Florida home.

In early September of 2018, Larry found a used *Sailfish 282* in Beaufort, North Carolina. If Larry liked the boat when he saw it, they planned to take it down the Intracoastal Waterway (ICW) to Stuart, Florida, then across the state by way of Lake Okeechobee, and north to Punta Gorda. Larry flew to Beaufort where he met with Neal Rowland of Radio Island Marine. After a thorough inspection, Larry purchased the boat and flew home to start packing for their trip. As he left Beaufort, Larry promised Neal they'd be back in a couple of weeks. Little did he know it would be more than a year before he saw the *282*, named *Mermaid Quest*, again.

Larry and Tina are no strangers to living aboard a boat. Years before, after their children were grown, they retired and sold everything they had to buy a 40-foot sailboat and sail to Mexico. They lived aboard that boat for 10 years. So naturally, the couple was excited about their upcoming adventure, which would have them living aboard the *282* as they traversed more



Larry, Tina, and Neal on *Mermaid Quest* before Larry and Tina left the dock for their adventure.

than a thousand miles to Florida. They were not going to hurry, instead planning to take their time sightseeing the beautiful coastal areas of the Carolinas, Georgia and Florida. However, all of their plans came to a sudden halt when Tina was diagnosed with breast cancer. Their trip would have to wait.

As Tina underwent treatment, Neal bolstered their spirits by sending pictures and videos of the *Mermaid Quest*. Happily, a year later, Tina was declared cancer free! The pandemic had begun, but that wasn't

going to stop them. They packed their bags, put on their masks, and flew to the east coast to begin their boating adventure. The staff at Radio Island Marine helped Tina and Larry get underway on what they all knew would be a great journey on their capable, ready and waiting *282*.

Unsure how far they would be able to travel each day, they soon found that if the weather was right, and there were not too many no wake zones, they could travel 80 plus miles. Throughout the trip, Larry was vigilant in his passing protocol, always slowing down for the sailboats. They were especially proud of the frequent shout outs from sailboat captains announcing over the VHF, "Love those Gradys!"

Along the way, the Collings also had to adjust to the weather, of course. Hurricane Etta delayed them for six days in Georgetown, South Carolina. This leads to Larry offering this valuable advice – make your marina reservations in advance of your arrival – you



**Flying to Beaufort, North Carolina,** Larry got to climb aboard *Mermaid Quest*, a Grady-White *Sailfish 282*, and check her out before he confirmed that this was the boat they had to have for their next adventure!

never know when you will really need them! Once the hurricane threat was over, the ICW was more crowded, and a few times they were very fortunate to get a slip for the night. While the ICW was well marked, Larry noted an occasional river, stream, or inlet crossing made the markers a bit confusing. There were also areas where markers were far enough apart you couldn't see the next one. More good advice came from this experience: the GPS, binoculars and an app on Tina's iPad, called "Aqua Map," were all invaluable.

The trip took them to a variety of locations, from quaint towns to semi-uninhabited areas. One morning they were in high spirits traveling through beautiful water, smooth as glass, when

suddenly they heard, "BOOM, BOOM, BOOM"! Larry backed off the throttles quickly, thinking the motors had blown. Out of the tall grass appeared three men carrying shotguns, poling a little boat to pick up swamp grouse they had just shot. After a moment of gathering their wits, Larry and Tina continued their journey.

The last leg of the trip was probably the trickiest – crossing the shallow waters of Lake Okeechobee. They knew it was not marked in Aqua Map and were unsure if it was mapped on GPS. After leaving Stuart, Florida, they stopped at Indiantown Marina for two days due to weather. While there, they found a paper chart of the area and realized the GPS showed a dotted line indicating where the channel was located.



**At the start of their journey,** Larry and Tina met up with Tina's brother and his wife, who were also traveling south on their catamaran, *Persistence*. They enjoyed an evening together before parting the next day. The catamaran was headed offshore due to their tall mast, and *Mermaid Quest* traveled via the Intracoastal Waterway.

After going through several locks, they were on the lake – with no turning back. At 25 miles wide and less than 11 feet of water in most places, they knew, "to stray, is to pay." Several abandoned boats that





***Mermaid Quest*** and her crew finally arrived at their new home in Punta Gorda, Florida, after a 31-day voyage down the Intracoastal Waterway.



**Larry and Tina celebrate** their safe Lake Okeechobee passage once they were docked at the marina in Ft. Myers, Florida.

had veered out of the channel and run aground made that point clear. Knowing shallow water meant the lake could get rough quickly, they made haste to the other side with the assurance that their

Grady's great hull and speed would allow them to cross in about an hour and a half. Once out of the lake, there was one final lock to go through. However, immediately after that lock was a railroad swing bridge that was not tall enough for the 282 to pass under. They circled and called from the VHF for the bridge to open, but got no response. About 40 minutes later a train crossed the bridge, then after another 10 minutes, a horn sounded and the bridge opened – the train engineer had to walk back and open the bridge after the train had crossed!

Relieved to have Lake Okeechobee behind them, the Collings proceeded to Ft. Myers staying a few days to take in the beauty of the Christmas lights

before embarking on the last leg of their outstanding journey. Traveling north to Punta Gorda, they found the opening to Alligator Creek, a winding canal leading to their condo. Their trusted Grady-White negotiated the canal very well and after more than a year, and spending 31 days on the water, the *Mermaid Quest* was finally home.

This year the Collings are extending their time in Florida and are excited to meet the Tarpon Coast Grady-White Club and enjoy more time on their boat. They can now rest easy knowing that with *Mermaid Quest* on the lift, they won't be hauled off to jail. Instead, they look forward with excitement to great boating days ahead!

## RESULTS FROM THE GRADY-WHITE DIVISION OF THE LAKE ERIE FALL BRAWL

# Lake Erie Walleye Tournament

The Lake Erie Grady-White Club is full of avid Walleye anglers. It should come as no surprise that in addition to their annual Walleye tournament, they encouraged their local dealer and Grady-White corporate to sponsor the new Grady-White Division in this well-known Walleye Tournament – one of the largest in Ohio.

In 2010, a small group of folks, determined to fish in the fall, tossed a little money in a bucket and called it a tournament. Ten years later, the event saw more than 12,000 participants, from 36 states, competing for prizes that include boats and cash payouts of \$100,000 for first and second place, and \$55,000 for the fifth place winner. Known as the Walleye Fall Brawl, this walleye tournament is the largest fishing derby on Lake Erie.

Since its modest beginning, the event has not only grown in overall participation but has also added different categories, like this year's addition of the Grady-White boat division. Sponsored by Grady-White Boats and South Shore Marine, the Grady-White division, which pulled in 40 boats and 112 crew members, awarded prize money for



Grady-White Division first place winner George Uhl, III, won with a 10.680 lb. walleye on his Grady-White *Gulfstream 232*.

the top three fish by weight caught on a Grady. The category saw nine lead changes throughout the tournament, which ran from October 16th to November 29th, making this division's debut quite exciting.

Those fishing the tournament can only bring in one fish at a time to be weighed. However, a participant can weigh multiple times. This not only allows them to im-

prove their chances of winning, but also encourages these avid anglers to fish right up until the bitter end of the tournament. While none of the Grady-White boats won top honors for the overall event (a 12.855 lb. fish took that prize), here are the Grady-White division winners.

George Uhl, III took first place on his Grady-White *Gulfstream 232* with a 10.680 lb. walleye. George is a charter captain that fishes for walleye, steelhead trout, and perch.

Aaron Depinet fished all night on his *Fisherman 180* to catch the second place fish, weighing in at 9.335 lbs.

Third place went to Paul Exline with an 8.835 lb. walleye. For a short time, Paul was the Grady-White mystery man, as no one from the club knew him or the Grady-White boat he fished. Through a little social media investigation, he was identified as a friend of Mike Weber, owner of a Grady-White *Freedom 235*.

The Lake Erie Grady-White Club added five new members to the club from exposure they received from the tournament – one of those being Mike Weber. Way to go Lake Erie Club, we can't wait to see what you do next year!





**Aaron Depinet** placed **second** with a 9.335 lb. walleye after fishing all night on his Grady-White *Fisherman 180*.



**Joe Nicholas** did not make the top three on the Grady-White Sponsor board, but this catch qualified him for a chance to win one of the five random \$100 drawings.



**Paul Exline**, a friend of Grady-White *Freedom 235* owner Mike Weber, won third place with an 8.835 lb. walleye.



## GRADY-WHITE CLUBS FIND WAYS TO COME TOGETHER SAFELY

# Club News

Here are highlights from recent Grady Owners' Clubs events and outings. If you have Grady Club information to share or are interested in clubs in your area, email [anchorline@gradywhite.com](mailto:anchorline@gradywhite.com). Go to [gradywhite.com](http://gradywhite.com) for links to club websites.



**The Cape Lookout Grady-White Club** recently hosted, "Cocktails at the Clubhouse" and had 50 mask wearing members attend.



**The Tarpon Coast Grady-White Club** celebrated their 15th Anniversary. During the event, they "passed the hat" and raised \$4,000 to assist Operation Second Chance, a South Florida organization supporting wounded veterans.



**The Vero Beach Grady Bunch** was graced with perfect weather for their first trip of 2021. With respect to the current health concerns, the club embarked on a picnic by boat for their first outing of the year. Sixteen boats, ranging from a *Freedom 215* to an *Express 330*, joined the adventure to the North Fork backwaters of the Sebastian River, along the beautiful Florida coast.





**The Tampa Bay Grady-White Club** was happy to make their Annual Kingfish Tournament COVID-19 safe. Congratulations to the winner, George Eckerle, with this 39" kingfish. George is the son of Bill Eckerle and fished off his dad's Grady-White *Express 330, Dream Maker*.



**Last summer, with help from their sponsor, Desmasdons Boat Works, The Great Georgian Bay Grady-White Club,** enjoyed rafting up on the Western Islands in southern Georgian Bay. Each staying on their own boat, club members were able to social distance while enjoying each other's company. The team at Desmasdons certainly embody their motto, "Where Relationships Matter".





THE PERFECT COMBINATION OF COMFORT AND ADVENTURE

# Grady Glamping

By Christian D. Carraway

*Christian has been with Grady-White Boats for 10-years as Product Designer. Prior to joining Grady-White, Christian spent many years enjoying the Grady Life on his family's Tournament 205, and today enjoys their 251 Coastal Explorer. Now, he's instilling that same love of adventure and boating in his children.*

They say that opposites attract; however, I need to clarify, my wife and I are not complete opposites. With that being said, we haven't always been on the same page when it comes to spending our down time together. Like most young men, I grew up enjoying, even craving, adventure. Camping, (real camping – in the woods with a tent and a campfire), mountain hiking, snow skiing, watersports on our Grady-White *Tournament 205*, were all my favorite pastimes. I wanted to go anywhere and see everything. I was always on the move. My wife, on the other hand, likes to relax. Hanging out by the pool or at the beach, shopping, going out for coffee or cocktails and fine dining are the types of outings my wife typically enjoys. So where does this leave us when we plan our weekends and vacations together? Usually in pretty



**Boating proved to be a perfect way** to satisfy Dani's desire to relax and Christian's need for adventure!

different places. That is, until we discovered the perfect getaway compromise that we have come to lovingly call “Grady Glamping”.

Some of you may be asking, what is “glamping”? Officially, it is defined as “a form of camping involving accommodations and facilities more luxurious than those associated with traditional camping”. I define glamping as taking all the comforts of home with you on the road, or in this case, on the water.

It started a few years ago when my wife, Dani, and I decided to try something new one holiday weekend. Tossing some ideas back and forth, I was a little surprised when Dani said, “let’s spend the weekend on the boat.” Grady-White President, Kris Carroll, offered to let us use her *Express 330*. We had never done that before, but I didn’t need convincing - without hesitation I was all in! We started planning and quickly realized there were unlimited options on where to go and what to do. We settled on anchoring up just inshore of the Outer Banks in Cape Lookout. We had an absolute blast. We cooked and slept on the boat, went swimming, and walked on the beach. My favorite part of the trip was when we climbed up all 207 steps to the top of the Cape Lookout Lighthouse. The view from the top was incredible, overlooking the sound on one side, and the ocean on the other. After enjoying the combination of a couple of cocktails and a beautiful sunset, we found the stars to be even brighter and clearer out on the water. The next morning I even set an alarm to get up and see the sunrise, something my wife will tell you I never do, but it was well worth it. The entire trip ended up being



**The Carraway's** spent a weekend with Noah (3) and Caroline (10 months) overnighting on the Washington, North Carolina waterfront on Grady-White President, Kris Carroll's *Express 330*.





**Christian and three-year-old Noah** enjoy a beautiful sunset after a day on the water.

the perfect combination of the adventure I crave and the relaxation my wife enjoys.

After the weekend at Cape Lookout was over we found ourselves quickly plotting, planning and taking new adventures on the boat. Anywhere we could reach in 3 to 4 hours at cruising speed was considered fair game for a long weekend getaway. Whether at anchor, or staying at a marina, no matter where we went, we always enjoyed the comfort and convenience provided by the *Express 330*. With an air-conditioned and heated cabin, and a water heater for hot showers, we always felt right at home. We even made waking up early

for sunrise coffee a part of our glamping routine. It is amazing to me how watching the sunrise over the water never gets old.

Since our original discovery of “Grady Glamping” when it was just the two of us, we have been blessed with two beautiful children, Noah Daniel and Caroline Anne. Now with a crew of four, our glamping adventures have become even more exciting. Our three-year-old son, Noah, loves the water. The hardest part is getting him to get back on the boat after a swim.

Learning as we went, we ended up finding a double stroller that would fold up and slide perfectly under the aft cockpit seat. Now when we dock and want to explore a new downtown main street, both kids are ready to roll, literally. Since adding the kids to our adventures, we have found the combination of forward and aft berths in the cabin provide plenty of room for us all. There is something about the gentle rocking of the boat that generates the best sleep for the kids (and adults too).

On our last voyage this past fall, we cruised inland three hours to the small town of Washington, North Carolina.



**Dani and Caroline** snuggle in the companion seat of Kris Carroll's *Express 330*.

Docking right on the downtown waterfront, we enjoyed walking to restaurants, antique shops, clothing boutiques, bakeries, and of course the playground. Slightly less adventurous than our island-hopping retreats in the Outer Banks, I found I equally enjoy the combination of bakeries and antique shopping. This was yet another Grady Glamping win-win trip.

As usual, we are currently planning our next two or three trips. If you have never tried glamping on your Grady-White, I would highly recommend it. It could end up being the perfect balance of comfort and adventure for your whole family.



**Christian captured this amazing sunset** after taking the family's *Tournament 205* for a cruise to a private island along North Carolina's Intracoastal Waterway.



HAVE AN INTERESTING STORY OR PHOTO?  
EMAIL US AT [ANCHORLINE@GRADYWHITE.COM](mailto:ANCHORLINE@GRADYWHITE.COM)

## Letters & Photos



**Mike Brown and his family** boat on the Connecticut River and fish off the coast of Rhode Island and Cape Cod in their *Tournament 192*, with the original Yamaha 175 two-stroke motor. They say the boat is the perfect combination for family cruising and fishing and can be easily trailered.



**DJ Ceviche** describes his *Express 330*, with twin Yamaha 300s, as an absolute fishing machine! Perfect for the coast of British Columbia, he's never had an issue getting through any type of water.



**For 20 years, this *Tournament 225* has been an amazing boat** for Tom and Ashley Loreto. They intend to enjoy her for another 20 years as they fish and cruise the Peconic Bay and Shelter Island Sound in New York.

**This *Canyon 336*, owned by Brian Snell,** provides the full gamut of boating fun for his family. From fishing to scuba diving, they enjoy boating around Islamorada, Florida.







**Bret Goroway caught this nice striped bass** on his father, Russell Goroway's, *Canyon 336, Reel Therapy*.



**Aloha from Tyler Peterson!** He's incredibly impressed with how his new *Adventure 208* handles the wind-chopped winter swells on the coast of Hawaii. He uses the boat to fish for ahi, ono and mahi mahi, and treats his friends to relaxing cruises and whale watching.



**The MacIntyre family loves living their Grady Life** (and being a part of Vero Marine)! Son, Andrew, even took his senior photos on their *251 Coastal Explorer*.



**Brothers, Cal and Andy Williamson,** took turns jumping off the side of their dad's *251 Coastal Explorer* at Cape Lookout, North Carolina.



**Jose Vargas loves boating in La Parguera, Puerto Rico,** on his second Grady-White, a *Canyon 306*. He has been very happy with the Grady-White family since purchasing their first boat, an *Escape 209* in 1998.



**William Dresser enjoys his slice of "The Grady Life" on his *Sailfish 272*.** He says it is a strong, stout boat any fisherman or family would love. He keeps the boat in Weymouth, Massachusetts, and fishes the local waters for stripers and albies.



TO SHARE A PHOTO OF YOUR FURRY GRADY FRIENDS,  
EMAIL US AT [ANCHORLINE@GRADYWHITE.COM](mailto:ANCHORLINE@GRADYWHITE.COM)

## Grady Buddies



Tom Mack shared this photo of Annie, who felt safe and secure in 2-foot seas at 30mph, leaning into the backrests. Both Tom and Annie say, "This is a great feature, not just for people".



Balan, an English springer spaniel, always keeps a sharp lookout from the bow of Eric and Kim Swartz's *Fisherman 180*. Here they are enjoying the beautiful scenery of Baker Lake below Mount Baker, Washington.



Linda and Rich Tarplin love boating with their dogs, Oscar and Hugo, on their *Freedom 275* around Bald Head Island, North Carolina. Between the ocean, river, creeks, and marsh, they get to experience some incredible sunsets.





**Riley shows grandpup, Penny, how it's done** on her first boat ride to the sandbar in New Port Richey, Florida. This is Mike and Lisa Keough's second Grady-White, a *Fisherman 257*.



**Grady and his brother, Ferris**, Australian labradoodles, relax on David Harriton's, *Canyon 336*, in New Castle, New Hampshire.



**This is Andy and Kim Stratton's third Grady, and their third dalmatian, Bailey**, that loves boating and fishing on their *Release 283* in Forked River, New Jersey.



**Suki, a hairless Chinese crested, and Yupa, a mutt**, love going out on Bryan Weidner's *Marlin 300*.



**The Burkes' rescue pup, Phoebe**, loves boating on their *Tournament 275*. Whether they are canal cruising or ocean fishing, she's always ready to go!



**Sailor, a labrador retriever**, enjoys a family outing in hopes of finding dinner on the Warner's *Express 330* off West End, Grand Bahama.



**Grady with his dog, Hazel**, on the Culhane family's *Tournament 205*. Boating out of Pocasset, Massachusetts. They now own a *Freedom 285*.





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## “We Fish for Life” and Fun!

When Curt Winbourne and a group of volunteers started reviving a once successful and popular North Carolina fishing tournament, he didn't do so with thoughts of winning. Curt and the team were more focused on the life-saving equipment the non-profit tournament donates to the Atlantic Beach Fire Department. The Atlantic Beach King Mackerel Tournament's motto, “We fish for life!” is the driving force behind the work of the tournament's Board of Directors, led by Curt, board president.

Curt usually registers his boat, a Grady-White *Advance 247* named *Pirate's Pleasure*, for the tournament but only gets to fish half the time. This year he decided to put a team together and see what they could do. Fishing with his wife, Marsha, and friends Johnny and Renea Baker, tournament secretary/treasurer, the team considered themselves weekend fishers. Turns out that the tournament results made it look like they were serious anglers! They not only won the



Left to right: **Curt and Marsha Winbourne and Renea and Johnny Baker** accept the award as the overall winners of the Atlantic Beach King Mackerel Tournament.

tournament, but also the Ladies and Senior Division, with a 41.61 lb. King Mackerel!

In its fourth year, the three-week tournament saw an increase in participants with 141 boats fishing this year. “This is an ‘every man (and woman)’ tournament,” says Curt. “Even two guys with little fishing experience, and their wives, can win!” All joking aside, what makes the Atlantic Beach King Mackerel Tournament so great is the format.

Participants can work around personal schedules and the weather, fishing when it works for them, which makes it suitable for boats of all sizes. Each boat gets two opportunities to weigh a fish over the three-week period. The *Pirate's Pleasure* team weighed their fish the first week of the tournament, then held their breath for two weeks waiting to see if someone would take the lead with a bigger fish. When the last day came, they were excited to have kept the lead and were proclaimed the overall winner!

While Curt and his team had fun winning this year's tournament, what's most meaningful are the lives saved by their donations. Curt is equally pleased with his Grady-White, saying, “It pays to invest in a good boat. With a new blue paint job and the addition of white Yamaha motors, I'm getting a lot of ‘Oohs’ and ‘Ahhs’ from people at the dock.” The captain and crew can't wait for next year's tournament to help save more lives and have more fishing fun!