



Anchorline

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE GRADY LIFE



Mike Skowfoe's Freedom 335, Reelized Gains,
anchored in the Abacos.



Dear Grady Friends:

Starting a new year is always an exciting time. It begins with thinking about the year gone by, then turns to dreams and anticipation for the future. Reflecting on the past year, we've found so much to be thankful for! We hope you've also found time to consider the things you're grateful for during 2021. Yes, it came with challenges, however, with faith and certainty, we see glimmers of a return to a normal way of life. This expectation encourages us to focus on the good things that have come out of these past two years and make plans for how to spend our precious time in the year ahead.

As Grady owners, many of you have taken this opportunity to spend time boating with friends and family. We hope those memories bring you immense joy during the holiday season and continue to give you and your family happiness as you relive those moments together. Throughout this issue of *Anchorline*, you'll see and read about Grady-White owners who are doing just that, making amazing memories with their children, grandchildren, and friends—both human and furry friends alike!

One indication of better times ahead is the return of many boat shows. We've missed seeing you at the shows...We're excited they are back and hope we see you when you visit one!

On behalf of our entire team at Grady-White Boats, we send best wishes for the happiest of holidays and a wonderful new year of living The Grady Life!

Cheers!

Eddie Smith, Jr.

Eddie Smith, Jr., Chairman, CEO

Kris Carroll

Kris Carroll, President



Colby and Sarah Thomason's daughters, Sammi (left) and Reese (right) have had a great summer with their dog, Maddie, on their *Freedom 255* out of Onset, MA.



The crew of *Tasty Waves*, a *Canyon 306*, had a great day fishing off Tiki Island, TX, on what they say is the best 30-foot boat for the Gulf Coast in their humble opinion.



Bailey, the Brehl family's dog, loves boating with his girls on their *191 Coastal Explorer* in Virginia Beach, VA.

**Have a friend or family member
with a used Grady?**

Have them submit a used boat registration so they can sign up for our *Docklines* and *Anchorline* mailing lists! Visit www.gradywhite.com/explore/grady-owners/used-boat-registration

Grady-White Boat Proves Perfect for Unique Chesapeake Bay Tradition

After moving to Huntingtown, MD, Stephen and Sheila Hensley visited the local library to learn more about their new community. A book about the “Oyster Wars” that took place in the region during the 1800s caught their attention and sparked the couple’s interest in recreational oystering. They began researching how to try it themselves,

which started with finding the right boat!

The Hensleys were already familiar with boating, having owned several when their children were young. The family previously lived near lakes in East and Middle Tennessee, where they mostly used the boats for skiing and tubing, but they now needed to find a boat suitable for oystering as well as crabbing. Over the next year they looked at a variety of boats that would be suitable. After initially considering cabin boats, they ultimately chose the Grady-White *Freedom 215* dual console because of its ideal configuration for the many activities they wanted to enjoy. “This boat can do anything,” praised Stephen. “It’s a great utility boat when we’re oystering and crabbing, but it is also just right for a relaxing day on the water or going to lunch or dinner, just the two of us, or with friends and family.”



Stephen and Sheila in front of their new *Freedom 215*, a boat that is just right for oystering, crabbing, fishing, and enjoying time on the water with friends and family. With them is Robert Warren from Tri-State Marine, their daughter, Hannah, and a friend, Henry Falcon, all ready to get on the water and try her out.

For this active couple, having enough space is a priority. The Hensleys have four children who love to go boating whenever they visit, so a large cockpit and plenty of creature comforts were a necessity. When crabbing, they may take up to a dozen traps, and when oystering, they need space to sort the oysters they collect with tongs. The tongs themselves take up a surprising amount of space as well—with a 16-foot shaft and a 28-inch basket, they can be a challenge to store. When Stephen and Sheila first started oystering, they would store the tongs down the center of the boat, but that made maneuvering around the deck difficult. Stephen crafted a unique solution by making two Y-shaped cradles to fit into the rod holders along the side of the boat. The tongs rest perfectly in the “forks” of the cradles, keeping them securely in place and out of the way.

Along with the ample space and amenities, the Hensleys also chose their Grady-White because of the height of the gunwales and other safety benefits of the boat. Stephen noted that the Chesapeake Bay demands respect, with waves sometimes growing beyond three feet! The high gunwales of their *Freedom 215* give them

a strong sense of confidence, with Stephen raving that “if things go wrong and the waves kick up more, we always feel safe!” He recounted, “When the salesman at the dealership told me his wife wouldn’t get on anything but a Grady-White, I knew that was the boat we needed!”

While crabbing is a warm water activity, oystering is not. Since beginning their oystering hobby, Sheila and Stephen have braved temperatures as low as a chilling 17 degrees with Sheila noting that warm clothes, gloves, and footwear are a must! The trip from their home to the oyster beds across the bay can sometimes take over an hour, but having both served in the military, Stephen and Sheila are accustomed to cold weather, and aren’t intimidated by being out on the water during the winter. In fact, one pleasant aspect is the solitude it offers, as they have made a few bay

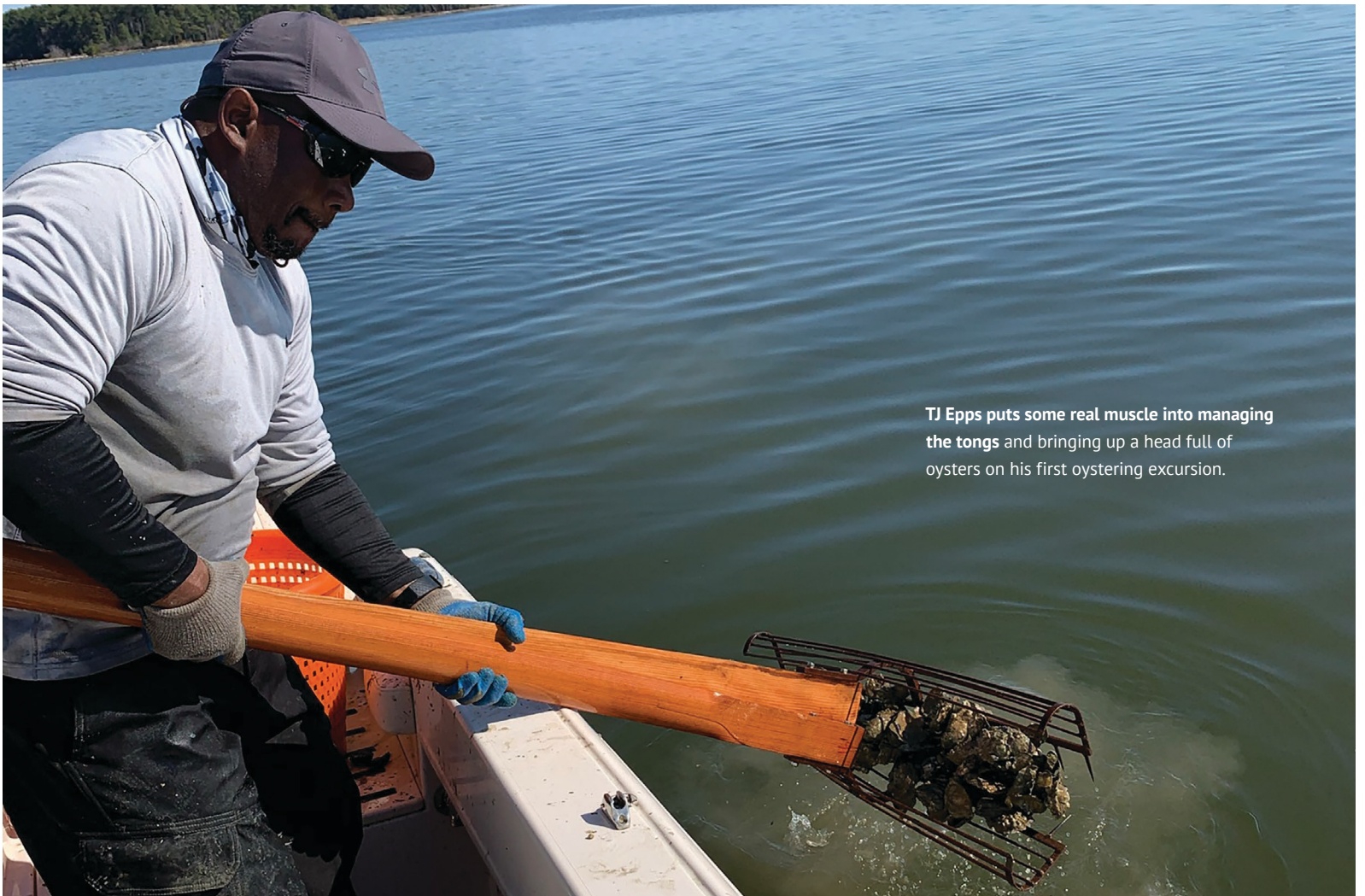
crossings on early Saturday mornings without ever seeing another vessel.

The Hensleys had to educate themselves on the rules, regulations, and best locations for their food-gathering endeavors. When it comes to oystering in Maryland, the only requirement is to have a valid Maryland driver's license proving state residency. The regulations are much more varied. The Hensleys suggest going online to review the state regulations where you'll be harvesting your catch. Oysters also can only be caught by hand, rake, or shaft tong, or by diving with or without scuba equipment in Maryland. The Hensleys decided to harvest theirs with a custom-made shaft tong.



Stephen and Sheila enjoy having guests on the boat!
When their nephew visited with his children, his son, Caleb liked casting off the bow. A real outdoorsman, he's now a guide in Alaska!

Sheila said it takes some teamwork and practice to haul up the oysters. First, the tong head has to be lowered down onto the oyster bed and worked into the bed until the oysters are gathered. Then the top of the shaft has to be supported by one person while another reaches down to lift the tong up and bring the oysters onto the boat. From there, the oysters have to be culled and the small ones thrown back. Often, the small ones are attached to others and have to be broken off. Sheila said it's hard work, but it's all worth it when they arrive home and eat the fresh oysters. Through trial and error, she and Stephen have learned they can store the oysters in the refrigerator for up to a week by keeping them in the shell



TJ Epps puts some real muscle into managing the tongs and bringing up a head full of oysters on his first oystering excursion.



The Hensleys love being joined by young people on the boat and introducing them to the wonders of the area and their hobbies. Stephen shows his grandson, Jack, an occupied osprey nest.

and putting them in a zipper bag with no water. Sheila also makes Oysters Rockefeller and has perfected a method to freeze and reheat later. As much as they enjoy the oysters, they also like eating the crabs they catch. They note that crabbing



Sheila gets the crab trap ready to drop overboard.



Sammy, whose grandfather was an oysterman many years ago on the Chesapeake Bay, was treated to an oystering trip with Stephen and Sheila. He was excited to finally experience the trade of his grandfather.

has a lot to do with the temperature of the water. In the spring, they crab in shallow areas, and as the water heats up, they go to deeper waters.

Stephen and Sheila both say owning their Grady-White has provided a lot of enjoyment for not only themselves, their children, and their grandchildren, but also their extended family and others in their community. They recalled a time when they met a young man named Sammy who was familiar with oystering because his grandfather harvested them many years before. However, Sammy himself had never had the chance to join in. Stephen and Sheila were happy to take him out for his first oystering adventure, delighting him and helping to preserve some of the area's history that first sparked their own love for oystering. With their generous and adventuresome spirit, plus the proper equipment and preparation, the Hensleys are enjoying the unique bounty of the



Their cousin's daughter, Mattie, bundles up for a chilly day on the water.

Chesapeake Bay area, while aboard their first Grady-White boat.

Find the Hensleys' Oyster Rockefeller recipe and their tips for packaging by visiting our customer tips section on gradywhite.com.



The Hensleys fill the crab basket for dinner.

GRADY-WHITE CREW STORIES

This Grady-White Leader Leads His Large Family in Boating Fun!

By Mark Doggett, Executive Vice President at Grady-White Boats

In 1990, I joined the team at Grady-White Boats as a leader in Quality Control. In retrospect, you could say “quality” runs through my veins, as it has continued to be a part of my work over the years as Vice President of Manufacturing and now as Executive Vice President. More importantly, it’s at the forefront of my family life. For my wife, Lynn, and me, nothing tops our quality family time. For a good number of years as my children were growing up, that quality time included being together on our Grady-



Mark and Lynn Doggett are thankful for every minute of family time they get to enjoy on their *Freedom 307* appropriately named, *Fam Bam*!

White boats—and that tradition continues to this day.

We have four children—three sons and one daughter. Our first Grady-White boat was an *Adventure 208*, a walkaround cabin boat with a vee berth that provided just what we needed for that time in our lives when our children were young. We named her *AnnaLynn*, a combination of my daughter’s and wife’s names. I would often trailer the boat to a ramp in Washington, NC, and from there we had many great adventures on the Pamlico



As much as Mark and Lynn enjoy time on the boat, their family does too. As their family has grown, their boats have had to grow with them!



Anchored at one of their favorite locations, Cape Lookout National Seashore, Wesley, the newest Doggett family member, has found his spot.



Whenever Fam Bam leaves the dock for another day of adventure, you can be assured the cockpit will be full!

River. When the weather was right, we'd even cross the Pamlico Sound to Ocracoke Island.

One of my favorite memories on the 208 was when I took the children to Cape Lookout for an overnight trip. The three boys slept in tents on the beach, while my daughter and I slept on the boat. After the sun went down, we sat there looking up at the night sky. What an amazing sight! The stars were unbelievable. There was no moon that night—just big bright stars. Growing up in Western North Carolina, I'd spent my share of time backpacking in high places, such as Mt. Mitchell, but never once had I seen stars like I saw that night at Cape Lookout.

Having worked at Grady-White Boats for almost 32 years, I have a second family too: my work family. I'm thankful to work in a place where everyone values camaraderie, teamwork, and a caring spirit. Many of my coworkers have made life-long careers at Grady-White, like I have. Through the years working together, we've shared many personal moments,

from celebrating happy times, such as the birth and achievements of our children, to rallying around each other through the tough times. I think that makes us a better team and is part of what enables us to build exceptional quality boats that provide the ultimate boating experience for our customers. While we

build boats together, the fact that we have varied boating interests enables us to build better boats. Sharing our experiences with one another after a great fishing trip or a family excursion helps us imagine the next great idea that will continue to make owning a Grady-White the best experience for our customers.



The Doggetts loved being together and hamming it up on their Fisherman 236, Family Tides, the only issue—they outgrew it!

Since that first 208, my family's boating needs have changed. A few years ago, Lynn and I purchased a *Fisherman 236* that we appropriately named *Family Tides*. It was a great boat to load up and take all over the Southern Outer Banks on day trips with our family, which was quickly growing. It seems like in no time we added two daughters-in-law and a son-in-law. In fact, my son-in-law, who grew up in a boating family, can't get enough of our Grady-White boats. His family has owned many boats, but he often notes that none ever provided the ride that he experiences on our Grady-Whites.

With six grandchildren and another son getting married soon, we've happily gone from a family of six to a still-growing family of 16. Fortunately, they all enjoy boating, which only meant one thing: we needed a bigger boat! You know the saying, "A family that plays together, stays together." With that in mind, Lynn and I



Even Haze, their four-legged family member gets to join in the boating fun!

had no hesitation in moving up to a *Freedom 307*. On a side note, I send a motivational text message to my family's text group every Monday. We named the group, "Fam Bam." So, when it came time to name our new boat, we thought *Fam Bam* was the perfect choice. The dual console layout is ideal, and we love the

flexibility of the design. Because we need a lot of seating, we opted for electromechanically extendable seats on both the port and starboard side, removing the starboard wet bar and cockpit step. This configuration works wonderfully for our family, letting us enjoy day trips to Swansboro, Cape Lookout, and other locations along the Crystal Coast here in North Carolina.

Now that we have a larger boat, instead of trailering it, we keep it stored with the local dealer, Radio Island Marina, in Beaufort, NC. What a pleasure it is to call them on the way there and know that when we arrive, the boat will be in the water, gassed up, and ready to go! One of our favorite excursions is taking the boat out to Cape Lookout National Seashore, just as we did on our first Grady-White. We anchor out, and everyone goes ashore to walk on the beach, catch hermit crabs, and search for sand dollars. When they come

While the baby got to keep the bow seat, he was soon joined by the big kids who had returned from their Cape Lookout beach excursion.



back aboard, they enjoy swimming in the beautiful waters of the Cape Lookout hook.

Some days we stay close to the marina, stopping at a sandbar after going to the Dock House Restaurant for lunch. This is where some of the new features of the *Freedom 307* make our time on the water more enjoyable, especially for me as the primary boat captain. One Saturday this summer, we pulled up to the restaurant docks, and everyone on the boat chimed in, “there’s no way we’re getting this boat into that spot.” There was only one place left at the dock, and it was a tight space between two other boats. With the help of the Yamaha Helm Master® EX system with the full maneuverability joystick, I slipped the boat right up to the dock, and we were all enjoying burgers and shrimp baskets in no time. The handling of this boat is just superb! I’d say it gets even better with every Grady-White we purchase. I love the fact that I can actually drive and dock this



It's a good thing they make t-shirts in all sizes so everyone in the Doggett family can show their *Fam Bam* pride.

boat by myself on those rare occasions when I'm alone.

Sometimes we have the chance to make unexpected memories. The first weekend in October proved to be unusually warm and beautiful. Of course, we weren't going to miss the chance for one more boat outing. With very few boats on the water,

we loaded up for a 26-mile ride to Swansboro for lunch. On the way, we came upon the biggest pod of dolphins we've ever experienced. We stopped for a while to watch them swim and play, jumping high out of the water. Then, after lunch we stopped at one of the small islands near Emerald Isle and anchored the boat for the kids to enjoy the last swim of the year—just one more memorable moment on our Grady-White boat. We're a tight knit family and I'm sure we'll be fondly remembering this day through the winter months ahead.

These special boating experiences with my family keep me in touch with what boating means to our customers and this is just one more reason why I happily go to work each Monday. My family weekends are the highlight of my week, and I'm sure they are for you as well. We love The Grady Life and the great memories we're making together!



The Doggetts' Grady-White *Freedom 307* is such a beautiful boat, Grady-White recently borrowed it for a photo and video shoot. Be on the lookout for lots of “How To” videos produced on the *Fam Bam*.

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. Go to gradywhite.com for links to club websites.



The Great Georgian Bay Grady-White Club, sponsored by Desmasdons Boat Works, met at the Pointe au Baril lighthouse and headed north to Henvey Inlet for a raft-up.



The Low Country Grady-White Club was treated to a first-class outing at The Landings. Even though the weather forecast predicted afternoon rain, the Houghs and Swierkowskis braved the weather and traveled by boat to meet the rest of the group.



The Northwest Grady-White Club held their 5th Annual Whidbey Island Crab Rodeo in October. Club members were there to catch more than just crabs, noting they had a lot of “catching up” to do since they missed the 2020 event. The morning started a bit slow except for the Buckingham/Power team, on a new *Express 330*. They set their traps out farther than all the other boats and were rewarded with ten big male keepers—one measuring an impressive eight inches! By dinner, all the boats had more than 30 crabs in total—enough to send everyone home with extra!

Lake Erie Grady-White Club Introduces the Thrill of Fishing to Youth with Disabilities

Getting onboard a boat and fishing for walleye delighted 12 disabled young people when the Lake Erie Grady-White Club, sponsored by South Shore Marine in Huron, OH, hosted the Youth Challenge Lake Erie Walleye Fishing trip. Thirteen Grady-White boats gathered at the local boat basin to pick up their guests. In addition to the boat captain and mate, each Youth Challenge participant was joined by support staff. Special guests for the day also included two charter



South Shore Marine and the Lake Erie Grady-White Club helped put smiles on kids faces while hosting the Youth Challenge Lake Erie Walleye Fishing trip.

captains and a walleye pro to direct them to the best location and teach different fishing techniques.

The Youth Challenge gives children with cerebral palsy, spinal cord injuries, blindness/visual impairments, and other physical disabilities, the opportunity to participate in adapted sports and recreation programs. The day proved to be a huge success, with each member having the opportunity to reel in their own walleye! Their excitement was contagious, making the excursion special for all the participants.

Back at the boat basin, everyone enjoyed lunch provided by the Walleye for Wounded



A total of 13 Grady-White boats participated in the Youth Challenge event.



The Youth Challenge event was a huge success! All participants were able to experience the thrill of boating and catching their own walleye.

Heroes group. Each participant was then presented with a Grady-White monogrammed duffel bag. The excitement didn't end there, as the top



four walleye teams were recognized and presented with awards. *Erie Feelin*, *Regrouper*, *Edna Mae*, and *Morning Star* won awards for the fish they caught, but



everyone was truly a winner that day—what better reward than seeing huge smiles on the children's faces!



Youth Challenge brings together young people with physical disabilities and teen volunteers who inspire each other through adapted sports, recreation, and social growth activities.

HAVE AN INTERESTING STORY OR PHOTO?
EMAIL US AT ANCHORLINE@GRADYWHITE.COM

Letters & Photos



Ethan Sanborn is all smiles with his walleye “triple header” after he caught them all on Grandpa Denny’s *Freedom 255* in Saginaw Bay, Lake Huron, OH.



Boating out of Houston, TX, Randy Carpenter rides along the waterway in his luminous *Canyon 326*.

David Coombes enjoyed a relaxing day on his *Canyon 336* along Orange Beach, AL.





Stuart Abernathy and his crew caught this wahoo off the Outer Banks of North Carolina on his *Canyon 336*.



Ira Brittingham, his son Shawn, and his friend John caught this 57.8 lb. citation wahoo while trolling off the Delaware coast. Seas were rough but they had no issues in their *Fisherman 257* as the SeaV2® hull cut through the rough seas with ease.



Jim Surmick, his son, Brett, and Mike Niemoczynski, caught this 250 lb. swordfish aboard Jim's *Release 283* out of Barnaget Inlet, NJ. This fish was 90 miles offshore along the southwest corner of the Hudson Canyon.



Pete, Brett, and Sean Lozowski limit out on the first family fishing trip in Clearwater Beach, FL. They love the *Fisherman 257* and said she checks all the boxes for making memories in the Gulf of Mexico.



Ann and Bill Kornegay's granddaughter, Anna Stubbs driving their *Freedom 225* near Ocean Isle Beach, NC.



George Mangos took his 8-year-old granddaughter, Rachel Fox, on her first fishing trip on his *Freedom 275* in the Chesapeake Bay near Rock Hall, MD.

TO SHARE A PHOTO OF YOUR FURRY GRADY FRIENDS,
EMAIL US AT ANCHORLINE@GRADYWHITE.COM

Grady Buddies



Harbor, Tara McCarthy's four-month-old lab was happy to be cruising on his Grandpaw, Pat McCarthy's boat, *Patty's Tub*, while on a visit from Bristol, RI.



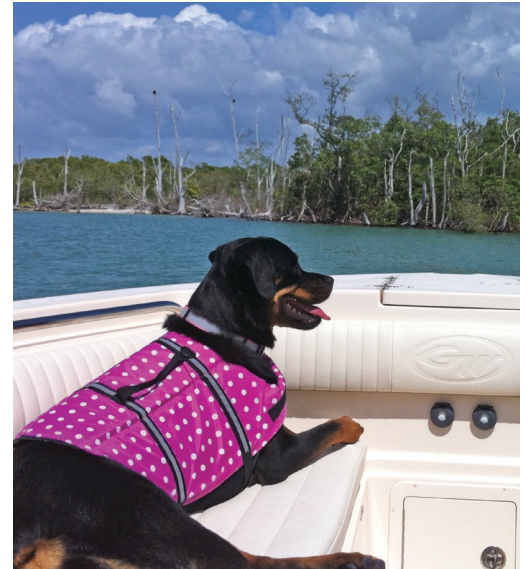
Bonnie and Archie keep watch from the bow of Richard Thulin's *Freedom 225*, *ACKIMBO*, off Nantucket, MA.



Eric and Nancy Martin's German shepherd, Layla, gets her sea legs on their *Fisherman 216* in Palm Beach, FL.



Gillie, an Italian water dog, enjoys outings and frequently guides the way or watches the bait along Pine Island Sound in Southwest Florida, on Melanie and Jim Hoff's *251 Coastal Explorer*.



Ethel, a rottweiler, watches the resident bald eagles at Gordon Pass in Naples, FL, on Harold Flack's *Canyon 336*.



Mia has the time of her life riding on the Canto family's *Canyon 336* in Estero, FL.



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This is your newsletter. Please tell us what you want to see in *Anchorline*.
Send us an email at anchorline@gradywhite.com

Grady Buddies *continued...*



Daisy loves all the space she has at the helm of Chris and Renee Regeis' new *Freedom 335*.



Once the cooler weather hits, **Scout** loves going for a ride and catching the sunset in Hilton Head, SC, on Mark and Amy Flanagan's *Fisherman 257*.



Sadie and **Tillie** pose on the swim platform of Norm and Lisa Howard's *Freedom 235* while boating on Lake Marion in Manning, SC.