



Anchorline

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE GRADY LIFE



40

YEARS

OF ANCHORLINE

1982

2022





“I SUPPOSE IT’S THE NATURE OF BOATS, WATER, AND SPORTFISHING, BUT ALL OF US WHO BUILD GRADY-WHITES FEEL A SPECIAL BOND WITH GRADY-WHITE OWNERS.”

Eddie Smith, President - 1982, First edition of *Anchorline*

Dear Grady Friends:

Welcome to the 40th year of *Anchorline*, the newsletter of The Grady Life! It’s moments like these that we go back and consider what it was like at Grady-White Boats 40 years ago. Wow! We are grateful for the amazing strides achieved in technology and specifically the exceptional progress Grady-White Boats has made since that first edition. Though it didn’t start out as the beautiful color publication we have today, *Anchorline* was – and continues to be – a great way for us to stay in touch with our customers, providing information about our new boats and accessories, helpful boat maintenance tips, fishing tournament results, and much more. We even offered Grady Gear in the early days of *Anchorline*, though the ordering process was by mail back then! Grady owners also had to put more effort into sharing photos with us since digital cameras and cell phones with cameras were still a far-off fantasy.

Anchorline back then was the beginning of a new way to communicate with our customers, and we are pleased with the entertaining, colorful newsletter it has become today, filled with all the great stories of our customers living The Grady Life!

Though much has changed over these years, we also see many unique aspects of our business that have remained consistent. Chief among them are the philosophies that have made Grady-



White the successful company it is today, putting our boats at the top of the industry in customer satisfaction for decades. That ideology was clearly stated in the first *Anchorline* when Eddie Smith said: “I think all of us at Grady-White get more useful information by talking or corresponding directly with Grady-White owners than by any other method.” Today, that sentiment continues to ring true in every aspect of our work here at Grady-White Boats. Maintaining relationships with our customers was the reason for the first *Anchorline*, and it is still the driving force behind each and every issue. Listening to our customers is one of the keys to continuous

innovation which enables us to make products that exceed customer expectations year after year.

We hope you enjoy this 40th year edition and the walk down memory lane. Keep sending us your photos of the fun times and adventures you have on your boats, as well as your ideas of ways we can continue to improve your Grady-White boating experiences. Delivering that joy to our customers is the reason we enjoy coming to work every day!

Thank you for your enthusiasm for your Grady-White boats, and Happy Boating!

Eddie Smith, Jr.

Eddie Smith, Jr., Chairman, CEO

Kris Carroll

Kris Carroll, President

40 Years of Anchorline – A Look Back

A great deal has happened since the first issue of *Anchorline* was introduced. Full of news about product introductions, fishing advice and successes, and boat maintenance tips, *Anchorline's* main purposes were to keep Grady owners informed about the latest happenings at Grady-White Boats and inspire them with stories of what other Grady-White owners were up to. Everyone didn't have a camera in their pocket with the ability to instantly produce photos like we do today, so there truly was more "storytelling" than "showing" in those initial editions.

Forty years ago, we were building upon our reputation for producing rugged, reliable fishing boats. Today, that same rugged and reliable construction is even more highly developed. We have honed our skills as designers, engineers, and craftsmen, and passionately build our boats with exceptional attention to all the details, which leads to unparalleled customer satisfaction. The early efforts to take great care of our customers were clearly appreciated, then reinforced, when many customers began sending us letters of high praise and inspirational photos that we were proud to share. Decades later,

we are thankful that those praises still come via the postal service, but more often now through e-mail, social media, and customer reviews online! We still share via *Anchorline*, but also through our website, and social media, too.

A look back at that first newsletter in early 1982 demonstrates the substantial strides made at Grady-White Boats, starting with the introduction of the first hardtop available for our then 22, 24, and 25-foot models. One of the key benefits of those early aluminum framed tops was the ability to install front and side curtains, giving our customers the freedom to comfortably use





those models in windy or cold weather.

Today, Grady-White hardtops are standard equipment on 21 of our 25 models, with stylish painted aluminum frames, a convenient storage net, LED lights, and curtains that can be purchased for the front, sides, and back of the helm, to keep the captain and crew out of the elements. Some models have full height windshields for even more protection.



The first Anchorline featured a portable fish box.

Soon fish boxes, with built-in overboard drains, became integrated into the boats. Today, Grady-White's 37-foot and larger boats come equipped with aft fish boxes that include digitally controlled refrigerator/freezer thermostats.

That first issue also featured a portable fish box, custom built to fit the aft cockpit of models 220, 223, 226, and 240. A solid teak top and handles on each end were heavily secured for lifting out big catches. Quickly, insulated fish boxes were integrated into the boat, as noted in the 1984 issue, which highlighted the benefits of Grady's self-bailing cockpit and described how insulated boxes, available on some models, also automatically drained overboard. Today all fishboxes are plumbed overboard, are insulated with closed-cell polyurethane foam to stay cold longer, and many larger boats have electronically controlled refrigerator/freezers built-in for the ultimate in keeping your catch fresh!

One of the greatest changes since then has been the introduction of the SeaV²® hull, the ultimate in offshore performance and comfort. When first introduced on the *Marlin 280*, the difference in the hull ride was so remarkable that Eddie Smith and his team made the decision to convert all of Grady-White's existing models to the SeaV² hull. Over the period 1988-1992 all new hulls were created and molds built for

the existing lineup, and every new model designed since then has been built on the incredible SeaV² hull platform. The hull continuously sharpens from the transom to the bow, ranging from under 20 degrees deadrise at the stern to a sea-cutting 30 degrees or so amidships, then reaching a wave-slicing 50-plus degrees at the bow. The deeper vee forward results in a softer ride you won't find on other hulls. This revolutionary design increases the number of comfortable days you can enjoy on the water. With canvas protection and our superior SeaV² hull performance, you'll be



One of Grady-White's most notable changes since the first *Anchorline* was the introduction of the unparalleled SeaV²® hull, which provides boating's driest and most stable ride.



Forty years ago, Grady Gear consisted of a t-shirt, jacket, and hat that you ordered by mailing a form with a check enclosed.



The Vero Beach Grady-White Club, known as the Grady Bunch, was established as the first Grady-White club in 1988. Pictured 2004.

boating in the shoulder seasons – making our boats an even better value today than they were 40 years ago.

Anchorline provided a way for Grady owners to purchase Grady Gear, as the first issue included a form that offered a T-shirt, jacket, and hat. Recipients could cut out the form, write in their name and address, check what items and sizes they wanted, and mail the form with a check to the factory. It wasn't until the December 2000 issue that an online Grady Gear experience was introduced through our website, gradywhite.com. Today, we still offer shirts, hats and jackets, but a visit to our website will reveal many more items, both functional and fun, for you to show your Grady pride.

In the Spring 1995 edition, *Anchorline* told our customers we were mailing surveys to each new Grady-White owner and using that information to continuously improve our products. These surveys provided another avenue for our customers to be heard, and as always, we listened! In the Fall of 1996, an *Anchorline* article stated, "owner research shows that people buy Grady-Whites not only for fishing but also for the pleasure of their kids and grand-kids." Our focus of producing rugged fishing boats evolved from this feedback to incorporate more luxury and convenience



The Spring 1997 issue focused on Grady-White's dedication to conservation and the protection of our fisheries – a commitment that continues today.

features in every Grady-White design for enjoyment of the entire family.

Our dedication to obtaining customer input, and applying it to boat designs and production, was recognized in the September 2001 *Anchorline*, which announced that Grady-White was ranked highest in customer satisfaction for quality and performance in J.D. Power and Associates' first Marine Study for the saltwater segment. Grady-White continued

this award-winning streak, capturing the highest award for the saltwater segment for all eight years that the J.D. Power Marine Studies were conducted.

Conservation, another passion of the Grady-White team, was a focus of the Spring 1997 issue. An article featuring our support of the then new Tag-A-Giant program highlighted our dedication to protecting fisheries. At that time, the program was a North Carolina Giant Bluefin Tuna Conservation Series, but it now spans the globe, working to understand the migration habits of many fish vital to our ecosystem, including the bluefin tuna. Twenty-five years later we are still supporting this worthwhile organization.

Over its 40-year span, *Anchorline* continued to grow. Top features included letters and photos submitted by owners, fishing tournament news, the fan-favorite Grady Buddies section, and a recap of Grady-White dealer and owner events. The Grady Clubs section came along later, after the Vero Beach Grady Bunch was started in 1988 and the idea quickly spread around the country. Now Grady Clubs from coast to coast share their fun and adventures, enjoying each other's company and their boats. Just as it was in that very first issue, *Anchorline* continues to connect Grady-White Boats, Grady-White dealers, and Grady owners! Keep those letters, emails, posts, pictures, and videos coming!

GRADY-CREW STORIES

Grady-White Career Links “River Gal” Back to Her Roots

Billie Brooks, Grady-White's Accounting Manager, grew up on the water and now continues the tradition with her husband, Bo, and son, Hatteras. Here's their story.

Even before Billie and Bo Brooks met, they both had a love for boating and being on the water. Growing up in Eastern North Carolina, they each took every opportunity to enjoy the creeks, rivers, and coast. Billie loved the water and was an avid boater from a young age. At just 16 years old, she had her own boat, which she trailered to the ramp, launched, and retrieved on her own or with her younger brother. She spent many happy days going up and down the local waterways in and around Washington, NC. Billie recalls that back then, boats provided a way for kids to socialize before they had cars. If you had a boat, you could go see all your friends along the creeks and the river, spending time on boats, sandbars, and beaches.

While he was still young, Bo's family



Billie and Bo Brooks take time away from their busy schedules to fish and cruise the local waterways.

moved from North Carolina to Florida, but he returned year after year to spend the summer with his grandparents back in Washington. There he learned to fish and water ski on the Pamlico River, very near

the weekend cottage that Billie and Bo's family now uses year-round as the starting point for their boating and fishing adventures.

When Billie and Bo met in their early 20s, they were thrilled to discover each other's love for the water. Their relationship took off quickly, and it wasn't long before Bo proposed, and they married. After college, Billie worked several jobs, but they were not jobs she envisioned herself staying in long-term. Meanwhile, Billie and Bo had their son, Hatteras (yes, named for the NC Outer Banks island!) in 1993, and shortly thereafter, Billie landed what she calls her "first big job" in the accounting department at Grady-White Boats. Bo's boating family had always dreamed of one



If you can't find Bo in the shop, the best place to look is along the waters of the Pamlico River and Sound where you're sure to find him fishing on their new 251!

day owning a Grady-White, so he says, “Billie became a legend in our family the day she got that job.” Today, she is Grady-White’s Accounting Manager and a member of the esteemed Captain’s Club at Grady-White, which recognizes all team members who have been with the company 25 years or more.

On days she’s not working at Grady-White, Billie and Bo are enjoying the waters around North Carolina together. Now, they do so on their very own Grady-White boat. “Being from North Carolina, my dad knew all about Grady-White Boats, and my uncle actually owned a printing company that did some of their work,” recalled Bo. “Pair that with the fact that we’re an extreme outdoor fishing family, and there was no doubt in our



Bo loves it when he can put his father, Brad Brooks, on a big fish!

minds that the very best fishing boats are Grady-Whites!”

Billie and Bo’s first Grady-White was a used *Fisherman 222*. It did its job well and they had lots of fun on it. When they decided to buy a NEW Grady-White, Billie’s brother bought their used 222 and kept it in the family. When Billie and Bo decided on their new model, a *251 Coastal Explorer*, in 2016, Bo owned a cell tower construction company and was often on the road for work. Because of both their

busy schedules, they needed a versatile and capable boat that would allow Bo to fish whenever he got a day off, and the family to enjoy the river together whenever they could. The *251* checked all the boxes! Its SeaV²® hull easily handled the chop that often kicks up in the waters of the Pamlico Sound, and they were more than confident in the quality, craftsmanship, and reliability. It provided the whole crew with a safe and secure feeling.

Of course, after working at the factory for so many years, Billie has first-hand knowledge of the exceptional attention to detail that goes into every Grady-White. Bo says one of the main advantages of all Grady-White boats is the unrivaled ride delivered by the SeaV² hull. Bo and Billie



Billie and Bo loved their first *251 Coastal Explorer*.



put that hull to the test in 2019 when a storm started blowing up while they were out on the water, prompting them to make a speedy return to the dock. Though the waves were rolling, their *251 CE* got them back quickly and safely. The ride itself greatly impressed them that day, but above all else, they were thankful for how confident they felt on their Grady-White. “Knowing every Grady-White boat is built for safety gives us immense peace of mind,” Billie shares.

Soon after the COVID-19 pandemic began, Billie and Bo decided it was time to sell his construction business in favor of finding a new job that required less time traveling. Never one to sit still long, within 48 hours of the sale, Bo rented a space in downtown Washington, with plans to start a “coastal swag” and outdoor cookware store called Pirate Waters Outfitter. It didn’t take long for the idea to grow. Shortly after opening, Bo invited his good friend and custom fishing rod builder, Greg Camacho, into the shop to sell his rods. Greg accepted the offer, adding, “Let’s build a fly shop!” – an idea that Bo loved. Business boomed and the

store will soon be doubling in size! What does Billie think of all this? “I told him he had to find a job,” she admitted, “but he sure tricked me... He got a job where he gets to hang out and talk about fishing all day long!”

Grateful for the success of the new business, Billie declared last year that it was time for the family to have a new boat, and Bo didn’t argue one bit. He was now able to fish much more often than in the years since their first Grady-White purchase, now reaching up to 25 hours in a single week. Bo estimates that between April and November, he fishes all day every Monday and Tuesday, and then several more hours on Sundays after



Bo and Billie’s son, Hatteras, enjoys the fishing action too!

church! With such a packed fishing schedule, he knew their next boat needed to be just as capable as their *251*.

Both Billie and Bo already loved everything about the *251*, especially the hull that allows them to fish both along the shallow inshore waters as well as venture out in the Pamlico Sound and Ocracoke Island areas, the casting platform in the bow, the two livewells, and the bow ladder that let them beach the boat and walk along the shore to fish or relax. They also loved the storage: “There’s a place for everything,” proclaimed Bo, adding, “I call it a floating tackle box! It’s easy to find what you’re looking for, so you can quickly get back to fishing when you want to switch bait.” After going back over everything they loved about their *251*, it was easy to decide to order a new one! Why the same model? They knew it would have all the amenities they loved on their previous boat, with the bonus of including the great new design features Grady-White added over the years since their first boat was built – including the new Yamaha engine updates.

A standout feature of the new *251*, Bo said, is the updated windshield design that

goes all the way to the T-top. He was initially unsure whether he'd like the new design.

Trusting in Grady's engineers, he decided to give it a chance, and now he exclaims, "I love it!" Billie confessed that she previously didn't really enjoy going out on chilly days, but this

new 251 changed that: "This new T-top design cuts down on the wind and makes for a warmer and drier ride on days when the waves kick up," she raves.

Another feature that convinced Billie and Bo to upgrade to the new 251 CE was Yamaha's Helm Master EX® with Full Maneuverability steering system, which Bo says makes it easier to manage the boat on his own. Along with the excellent maneuverability, the low gunwale height of the 251 allows the family to safely bring a big fish onto the boat so they can remove the hook, snap a picture, and release it



Bo shows off a great catch before gently releasing it back into the water.

back into the water. They also customized their boat with a 96" trolling motor and twin power poles for ideal fishing and shallow water exploring!

Billie and Bo tell us that boating today not only provides an escape when life feels stressful, it's a great way for them to relive their younger days on the Eastern NC coast. Before, they only reminisced about those early days and all the fun they had on the water. Now they say, "Our friends and family all have boats and we love to convoy together just like we did in the

summer as kids. It's been a good reminder of how wonderful our life was and still is today." For their family, the waters of the Pamlico are a lifeline, with Bo and Hatteras fishing, and Billie, who calls herself a "River Gal," relaxing and taking in the sunsets. More often than not, when they head out for day of

boating, Bo will say, "Why don't we cast a little?" and Billie will reply, "I didn't think we were coming out on the boat to fish." Her smile tells a different story when she gets a fish on the line and she starts grinning from ear-to-ear.

For this Grady Crew member, working at Grady-White and owning a Grady-White has led to many memorable days on the water for her and her family. If you can't find Billie in the office, and Bo's not in the store, they're probably out celebrating another great day living The Grady Life!



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.

Before the first edition of *Anchorline*, Grady owner events were already in full force. However, they primarily centered on fishing tournaments at the dealerships. The first Grady-White owners' clubs were featured in the 1990 Winter edition, and about that same time, the club concept began to take off! Today, these clubs bring Grady owners together for fishing tournaments, boating education, and exciting excursions that range from a day-trip to a week-long adventure. Grady owners clearly love their boats, and

they buy them again and again because of their satisfaction with the product, but another force that pulls them in is the camaraderie and enjoyment derived from their local Grady-White club. Even a pandemic hasn't stopped clubs from finding ways to gather. If there is not a club in your area, contact your local Grady-White dealer about starting one! If you have a club, please submit your photos and stories to anchorline@gradywhite.com. We'd love to include your activities in the next issue of *Anchorline*!



Twenty-three boats participated in the Lake Erie Grady-White Club fall Walleye Tournament, which ran from September 4th to October 2nd. The tournament champion was determined by the longest three walleyes caught over the four-week event. The tournament was appropriately called the "Battle of the Three Headed Monster." This event proved to be one of the most competitive, with seven lead changes over the course of the tournament and 50% of the top ten turned over in the last week. Mariann Chapman on a *Freedom 335, One Goal*, had a total of 81.5" (27.2" average) and took the lead in the last week. She was followed by Joe Golob on *Knot on Call*, a *Freedom 375*, with a total of 78", and third place was awarded to Mike Manion on his *Adventure 208, Forever Three*, with 77" total.



The Tidewater Grady-White Club held its annual holiday party where they unveiled a new website. With 35 members and lots of events and excursions planned, 2022 is going to be a fun year for this club!



In spite of high winds and cold temperatures, the Tampa Bay Grady-White Club still had fun at their recent brunch event. With winds gusting as high as 46 mph, everyone ended up driving to the restaurant, declaring that “our Gradys can take that kind of punishment, but our captains usually opt not to!” The club is already gearing up for their next event, their 35th Semiannual Kingfish Tournament.



2021 was a busy year for the Gulfstream Grady Group. They took a trip to Postcard Inn in Islamorada, FL, and enjoyed an eight-boat cookout and raft up on Pecks Lake in Stuart, FL. (l to r) John Klaasen, Dick McKee, and Randy Brown caught some fine Mahi fishing in Cape Eleuthera, Bahamas, aboard Randy Brown's boat, *Fintastic 2*.

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

Letters & Photos

Even before the first edition of *Anchorline* was published, customers started sending us letters and photos. It was exciting and encouraging for us to hear how much our customers enjoyed our boats and the craftsmanship we put into each one. From Florida to Connecticut, customers detailed how well their boats performed and the superior service they received from their dealers. Recently, one such letter stated, "I find this boat superb in handling rough water. It is very comfortable and

seaworthy." Another said, "We have been boat owners for many years, but never have we received such courteous and professional service." Actual letters rarely arrive in our physical mailbox these days, but we are thrilled that they fill our e-mail inboxes and our social media posts! It's also exciting that they now come from all around the world! If you have an interesting story, adventure, or photo you'd like to share in *Anchorline*, email us at anchorline@gradywhite.com.



Al Smith enjoys boating with his family on Round Lake in Charlevoix, MI, on his *Fisherman 236*. Pictured here with him are his grandsons, Logan and Connor, his son Nick, wife Joan, and sister-in-law Debbie.



Mat Urbanski has a 2010 *Gulfstream 232* that he charts out of Bronte Harbour, Lake Ontario, Canada.



Lindsay Beasley's nephew, Bobby, loves driving his grandfather Robert Beasley's *Fisherman 257* in Virginia Beach, VA. They think the Grady is such a great boat and is enjoyed by their whole family!



Luke D'Ambrosio's *Sportsman 180* allows him to fish in almost any condition. It has the perfect amount of space to fish with stick baits and jigs for kingfish and every other offshore species in Sydney, Australia.



Kerri Konik finally bought her own Grady-White boat, an *Overnighter* that she plans to lovingly restore. She's looking forward to boating along the Chesapeake Bay and exploring anchorages around Rock Hall, MD, and Virginia Beach, VA!



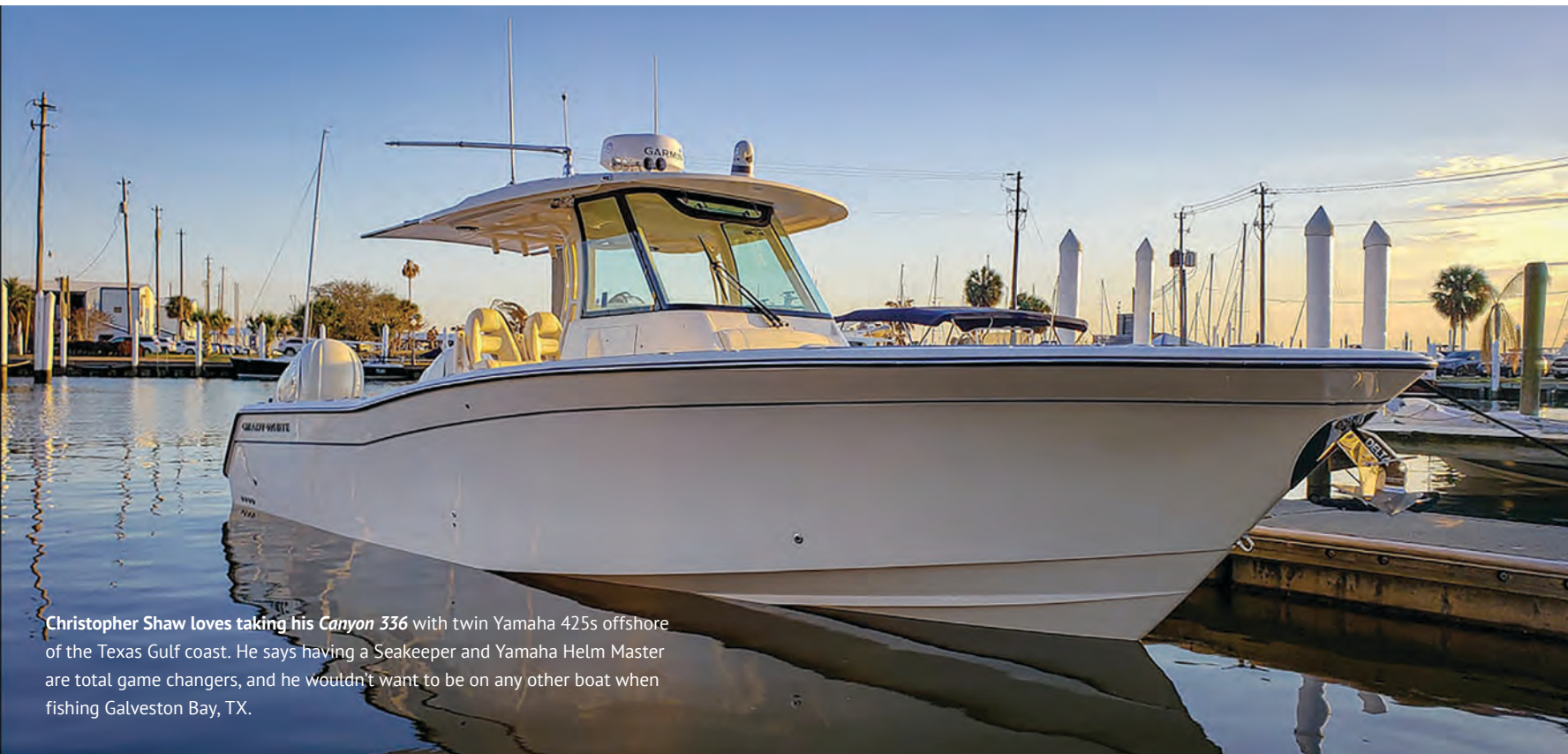
Frank and Luke Retacco's grandsons, Drew Cotter, Ryan Retacco, Dylan Retacco, and friend Tyler Pian, enjoy a day on their *Canyon 326*.



Matt Bejsiuk enjoys fishing on his *Fisherman 257* out of Brigantine, NJ, just one beach north of Atlantic City.



Mike Epstein moved up from his *Express 265* to this *Marlin 300*. Pictured is his Uncle Neil with a Mahi. They like to fish from the Long Island Sound to the offshore canyons and everywhere in between!



Christopher Shaw loves taking his *Canyon 336* with twin Yamaha 425s offshore of the Texas Gulf coast. He says having a Seakeeper and Yamaha Helm Master are total game changers, and he wouldn't want to be on any other boat when fishing Galveston Bay, TX.

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

Grady Buddies

Early on, the Grady-White team noticed that people weren't the only ones having a good time in the photos and stories we were receiving from our customers. Pets seemed to show up in almost as many pictures as fish! In December of 2002, the first "Who's Your Grady Buddy?" appeared in *Anchorline* featuring Grady, a west highland terrier on his first fishing trip



aboard Mark and Michelle Vayda's *Seafarer 22, The Right Option*. Since then, hundreds of Grady Buddies have been featured in *Anchorline*. We see some less traditional buddies from time to time – even a race horse! Every

month we look forward to your Grady Buddy photos – so send yours to anchorline@gradywhite.com!



Beau, Adriaan and Kim Radder's English Springer Spaniel, loves to relax on "his" *Freedom 215* while cruising the waters of Hilton Head Island, SC.



Gucci is the captain now on Chris Caputo's *Freedom 275* in St. Augustine, FL.



Poppy, Courtney Metterling's Flat-Coated Retriever, helps spot fish on her grandpaw Roger Mitterling's *Fisherman 216* in Pleasant Bay, Cape Cod, NJ.



Lily and Lupo, two Cavalier King Charles Spaniels, doing their favorite thing: taking a boat ride on their *Fisherman 236* with mom and dad, Beth and Shannon Chandler, in Orange Beach, AL!



According to Joanne Muldowney, Joe and his dog Finley's favorite place to be is on their *Freedom 255* enjoying great days on the Toms River, NJ.



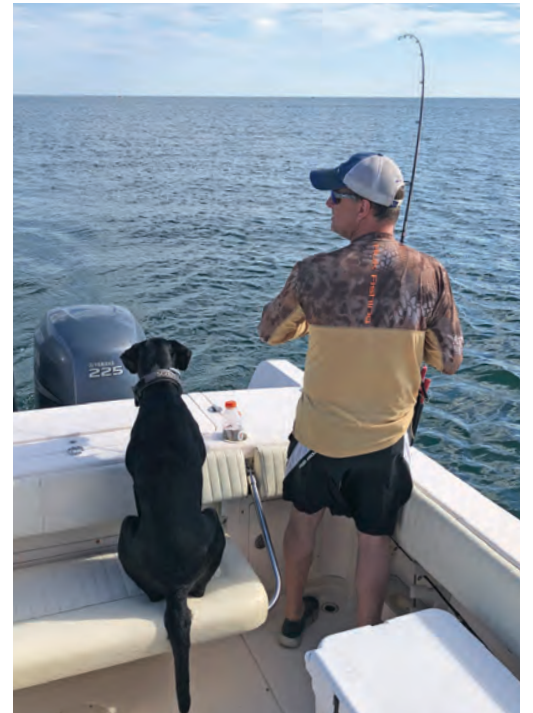
Christine Marks' chocolate Lab, Kona, loves riding on their *Fisherman 222* in Oceanport, NJ.



After adding another German Shorthaired Pointer named Tilghman (Tilghy for short) to the family, Rob and Dana McGuckin realized they are going to need a bigger boat! Tilghy settled nicely into living "The Grady Life" on their *Freedom 275* out on the Chesapeake Bay, MD.



This is Hank, who loves going out on his dad Ted Beale's *Freedom 215* in Long Beach, NY.



Jon and Jill Guilmain's black Lab, Scout, enjoys fishing on their *282 Sailfish, J2*, out of the Merrimack River in Newburyport, MA.



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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...*



Monty Don, keeps watch on Simon Briggs' new *Freedom 325*, *Biscuits 'n' Grady*.



Daisy, a yellow Lab, cruises around Vineyard Sound, MA, with Lia Brossi on their *Fisherman 236*.



Sarah Greeve's Bernese Mountain Dog puppy, Ella, always gets the best spot on the boat. She loves feeling the wind on her face and smelling the salty water while cruising around Casio Bay, ME, on her family's *Freedom 275*!