



# Anchorline

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE GRADY LIFE



Kevin Cooper describes  
his 251 Coastal Explorer  
as a "do-it-all" boat.  
Read more inside...



# Dear Grady Friends:

Each year, when summer arrives in our corner of the world, we are refreshed and rejuvenated seeing our customers, old and new, out on the waterways enjoying their boats. That's what boating is all about—families and friends celebrating time together in the great outdoors.

Providing the highest quality and safest boats is our top priority at Grady-White, but we are equally passionate about supporting conservation work that protects some of our most precious resources—our fisheries and waterways. We accomplish this by getting involved with a number of organizations whose initiatives are dedicated to protecting our waterways so that aquatic life can thrive and we can all continue to enjoy the thrills and excitement that boating brings to our lives. The Coastal Conservation Association, The Billfish Foundation, and the American Sportfishing Association are just a few large-scale programs that are making a difference through research, education, and legislative initiatives.

A less well-known but very dedicated group, the Dolphinfish Research Program,

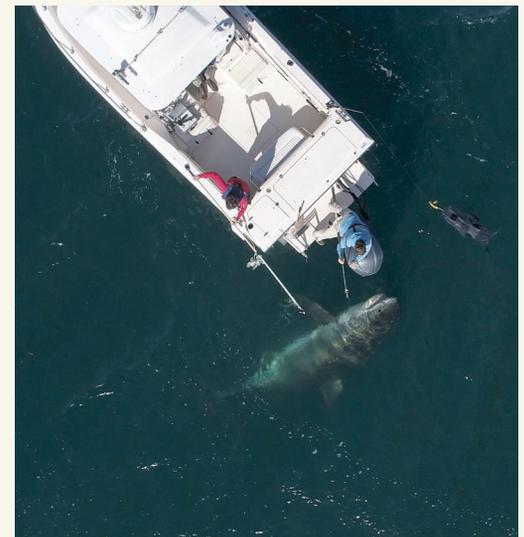
a part of the Beyond Our Shores Foundation, is one conservation project that is seeing exciting results. What makes the Dolphinfish Research Program so unique is that it brings scientists and fishermen together to tag dolphinfish and track their movements. You can learn more about this program and other organizations we're partnering with in an article on page 5 of this issue of *Anchorline*. We hope it will encourage you to find a similar opportunity in your area where you can learn more about preserving your local fish and water resources. When we combine efforts to support conservation, protect our waterways, and care for our fisheries, we help ensure great boating days ahead for ourselves and our future generations.

As boaters who enjoy the outdoors, supporting conservation is something we can all get behind. Send us your photos and tips on how you're enjoying and protecting our natural resources. We'd love to hear from you and share in your Grady Life!

Together, we're preserving the future of boating.

Eddie Smith, Jr., Chairman, CEO

Kris Carroll, President



### Grady-White Helps Sponsor Shark Research

Dr. Barbara Block, a Stanford University Marine Biology Professor, has led their successful Tagging of Pelagic Predators Program for decades. This important research, off the coast of Monterey, CA, is conducted by attaching high tech tags to pelagic species, such as the white shark. The team tags these sharks aboard a Grady-White *Gulfstream 232* that we helped provide as one of their research vessels. Using a seal decoy, the *232* allows them to get close enough to the sharks to tag their dorsal fin. Each tag includes a camera, magnetometer, gyroscope, and accelerometer. The data collected provides valuable insight into the largest predatory fish's survival and interactions with other animals. This research strives to protect the health of our planet by helping us understand the effects of ocean warming, climate change, and overexploitation that are reducing the populations of the white shark. To learn more about Dr. Block's research visit [stanfordblocklab.com](http://stanfordblocklab.com).

# The Boat That Does It All

When Kevin Cooper describes his Grady-White 251 Coastal Explorer, he says, “It’s like a Swiss Army knife of boating—it really can do all things!” From fishing to enjoying island time, Kevin and his wife, Gina, are loving retirement and the time they get to spend with family on their Grady-White 251 CE. With three children and five grandchildren, they have put this boat through its paces in and around New Port Richey, Florida, and have found it’s just right for their versatile lifestyle.

Kevin grew up boating in Gulfport, Mississippi, and as an adult has owned several boats, but none have provided him the same pride of ownership and confidence in any situation that he’s experi-



**Front:** Brittani, Emma, and Gina. **Back:** Jackson, Brad, and Kevin.

enced with the 251. He’s also found boating a bit different in the greater Tampa area. One way he approached learning the differences was hiring a professional fishing guide. Not only did the guide teach

him about the different fish species in the area, but he also helped Kevin from a boating perspective by familiarizing him with the local waterways. “There are a lot of shallows here which is unlike where I first learned to boat and fish,” he notes. “The 251 is just right for shallow fishing but it’s also the only bay boat I’d be willing to take 15 miles offshore to the man-made reefs off the New Port Richey coast.”

When Kevin and Gina moved to New Port Richey, purchased a house on the water, and bought the boat, Kevin thought that he’d mostly use it for fishing, which led him to fully outfit the 251 with two power poles, top of the line Garmin® electronics, and a trolling motor. He says, “It’s an inshore fishing BEAST!” Little did he know it would be





**The Coopers' son, Jonathan,** caught this nice snook on a recent visit.



**Friends are always welcome!** Sarah (r), Kevin and Gina's youngest, brought along her friend, Hope, for a fun day on the boat.

just the opposite, and that he and Gina would spend a good deal of time island hopping with and without the family. Luckily, he included the Easy-Up Bow Shade for added comfort when sitting in the port and starboard bow seats.

Time is limited when their family visits, so getting out on the water is a priority. Even if there's a slight chance of a pop-up thunderstorm, they still go out, but are more diligent in watching the weather. "If you boat in this area, you know a storm can pretty much blow up any day," says Kevin. "We don't let it stop us from going out." That was the case last summer when their son and his family were visiting. Heading back in they were caught in a

thunderstorm. Fortunately, with their solid, secure Grady-White boat, they were able to follow the channel safely back to the dock. Kevin said that experience taught him to plan a little better in the future; however, you can't always plan everything perfectly—that's why he loves the reliability of the Grady-White 251. "A storm is not the best situation to be in, but it happens, and if I'm going to have my family on the water, I'm going to do it in a quality boat, that's unsinkable, like the Grady," Kevin says.

One of the Coopers' favorite pastimes is anchoring out at an island about five miles from their home. The kids play on the beach and in the water, the women go shelling, and the guys—well, they mostly relax and tell tall tales about past fishing trips. With a fully loaded Grady and an incredible family to enjoy it with, Kevin and Gina think there is nothing better than living The Grady Life!



**The girls love to get on the beach and add to their seashell collection!** This day the Coopers' daughter-in-law, Brittani, brought friends along. (l to r) Erin, Brittani, and Lauren.



**There was a lot of excitement** when Sarah caught her first snook!



**Kevin throws out a line** in Tarpon Springs.

# Investing in the Future of Outdoor Recreation



Grady-White has long been a champion of protecting our natural resources. We recognize that outdoor recreation is one of our greatest assets, and for that reason we're a strong advocate and contributor to fisheries conservation, education, and waterways management.

One of the many ways we do this is by getting involved with national and local organizations that support our same values and love of the environment.

An organization that is expanding its efforts across international waters is the **Dolphinfish Research Program**, a part of **Beyond Our Shores Foundation**. This United States and Puerto Rico-based nonprofit organization is dedicated to the conservation of marine fisheries and marine science research. What makes the Dolphinfish Research Program so unique is that it brings scientists and fishermen together to tag and track dolphinfish movements. Some of the program's objectives are to identify spring and fall migration routes, recreational fishing grounds, and winter grounds for the dolphinfish. Another is to document the range of the species. This is the largest collective public effort to advance

knowledge of the dolphinfish, and anyone can get involved! Donations are one way to support the effort, but anglers can also request a tagging kit and participate first-hand in the tagging and tracking process. By visiting their website and signing up for their monthly email newsletter you can see the number of tag deployments and recoveries, as well as a map of the fish movements. To learn more, visit [dolphintagging.com](http://dolphintagging.com) where you can request a kit and track the movements and growth of the fish that are tagged and recaptured.



Grady-White Boats also works to protect our waters and fisheries by joining organizations on Capitol Hill to advocate for conservation. One organization working across all party lines is the **American Sportfishing Association (ASA)**, the non-profit sportfishing industry's trade association. ASA advocates for funding

programs related to fisheries, conservation management, and access. By working with sportfishing enthusiasts on Capitol Hill, they are able to write and introduce bills for sensible fisheries policy. As a leader in conservation, ASA educates and

inspires our government leaders, anglers, and the general public to ensure the future of recreational fishing. Recently, two Grady-White employees participated in ASA's annual spring government affairs meeting in Washington, DC, where they impressed upon our government leaders the importance of policy issues that affect our natural resources and the sportfishing industry. One priority of the meeting was the Recovering America's Wildlife Act which focuses on saving thousands of at-risk species already listed as threatened or endangered. To learn about ASA, their legislative priorities, membership, and more, visit [asafishing.org](http://asafishing.org).



Watch a short video from the American Sportfishing Association for an outline and update on their top five priorities for 2022.

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**Coastal Conservation Association** was formed in the late 1970s when 14 recreational anglers joined together to protect the redfish and speckled trout populations of Texas. In just four years, they successfully outlawed gill nets along the Texas coast and had both fish species declared game fish. Seeing their success, other states began similar movements and today their chapters span the Gulf, Atlantic, and Pacific coastlines with a vision of “ensuring the health and conservation of our marine resources and anglers’ access to them.”

This year, Grady-White Boats and several other sponsors partnered with the Coastal Conservation Association of North Carolina and the North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries to improve an artificial reef in the brackish water of the Pamlico



River. The program added 3-D printed reef modules to an already existing reef site near Bath, North Carolina. The one hundred reef cubes, measuring 3' x 3' and weighing roughly 1,850 pounds each, are made from a mixture of concrete, oyster

shells, and recycled materials. They were transported by barge and deployed at the site approximately 100 yards off the shoreline. This new, nature-based technology, created by Natrx, has received worldwide recognition for its ability to assist environmental challenges by protecting shorelines and providing habitats where fish and other marine life can thrive.

There are many worthwhile conservation organizations like these throughout the world that are diligently working to preserve our natural resources. Everyone can play a role in this important work. We encourage you to join us and many others by learning about fisheries management and waterway concerns, as well as getting involved in other initiatives in your area!



Learn more about CCA, the initiatives they support, and find a chapter near you.

# Love of Boats and a Perfectionist Attitude Lead to Long Career

Daniel Strickland, Grady-White team member and boat owner



Daniel enjoyed the creative aspect of working in the product engineering department. It was also exciting to help with the performance testing of new models.

Growing up, Daniel Strickland always loved boats! When a friend who worked for Grady-White suggested he apply for a job there, he thought, “that would be pretty cool.” At the young age of 20, he had no idea that a job with a boat company he knew nothing about would lead to what is now a rewarding career spanning nearly 30 years. From manufacturing, to engineering, and now sales, Daniel has had the opportunity to craft, create, test, and sell Grady-White boats. Today, in addition to his work, Daniel enjoys the time he and his wife, Stacey, get to spend on their own Grady-White, an *Escape 209*. Generally, they boat and fish in and around Eastern North Carolina.

A self-proclaimed perfectionist, Daniel believes that is one of many reasons Grady-White was, and continues to be, a perfect fit for him. “From the start I noticed the quality controls that Grady-White had in place,” recalls Daniel. “I learned from the beginning that the company was constantly striving for perfection in everything they did and that was something I could easily get on board with every day!”

Daniel’s job started on the manufacturing floor where he worked on all types of boats. One day he was standing in a *Marlin*

*300* and a co-worker was telling him more about the boat, one of the biggest models Grady-White was building at the time. Daniel was blown away with all the built-in features! He couldn’t believe he was part of building such an exceptional boat.

Three years later, Daniel moved to the engineering department. His ability to focus on the details made him well suited for this job, but he found that he really liked the creative aspect, too. “Every day was different,” he noted. “I did a lot of research and development, and had opportunities to problem solve and troubleshoot as the team designed new models and features.”

One of the engineering tasks Daniel performed was field testing boats for flotation and stability. He also did perfor-

mance testing. When Yamaha updates or introduces a new engine or feature, the Grady-White team must do a performance test for EVERY Grady-White model with every available power option. That’s a lot of boat rides in varying conditions for weeks on end. To get all the tests done, they had to do them every week whether it was 30 degrees or 90 degrees. Having mainly owned smaller bass fishing boats, Daniel loved the different aspects Grady-White boats brought to the fishing table and he was able to see how each model’s exceptional ride and performance compared to other brands. When it was time to buy his first Grady-White, he knew exactly what he was looking for—an *Escape 209*.

The *209* added a new dimension to Daniel’s personal boating experience. Not only was he able to go in larger bodies of water more confidently—he also was able to get Stacey engaged in boating and fishing. “Before, she didn’t care much for the boating lifestyle,” says Daniel. “With the Grady she’s more comfortable, primarily because of the stability. Now, when I pull out of our driveway, she’s in the truck with me off to the next expedition.” Fortunately for Daniel, Stacey likes to fish, too. She even taught herself how to back



**Daniel Strickland's Escape 209** allows him to access larger bodies of water more confidently and also got his wife, Stacey, engaged in boating and fishing.

the boat trailer so when they get to the ramp, she takes the wheel, getting the boat in the water and the trailer parked while Daniel gets everything settled and the engine started. Her enthusiasm didn't stop there. Stacey also embraced the fact that she should be able to handle the boat, and though she prefers to relax and enjoy the ride to the fishing grounds, she can take the wheel if needed.

Daniel likes having a boat he can easily trailer, allowing them to explore different bodies of water. "With the 209 I can go saltwater fishing. Trailering the boat allows us the flexibility to take the boat exactly where we want, whether it's



**The Stricklands' Grady Buddies, Allie and Tealy,** enjoy the boat as much as the rest of the family.

inshore along the river, in the sound, or nearshore in the ocean."

While Daniel and Stacey prefer fishing over cruising, they have learned to love the cruising life more since their adult sons now join them. Bradley and his wife, Caroline, and Austin and his girlfriend, Blair, will climb aboard and the whole family enjoys time on the water together.

While the 209 is Daniel and Stacey's first Grady-White, they don't intend for it to be their last! "We are looking forward to owning a *Fisherman 216*," Daniel says with anticipation. "The 216 is a great



**Daniel and Stacey's son, Bradley and their daughter-in-law, Caroline,** enjoy cruising and fishing on the 209.

Grady that's a little larger but still easily trailerable. It's the perfect size for me, Stacey, and our two dogs, Allie and Tealy, to go pretty much wherever we want to go."

Grady-White has provided some exciting opportunities for Daniel, both on the job and in his personal life. One memorable experience at work was when he helped develop new versatile bow and aft seating for the *251 Coastal Explorer*. The seating designs allow anglers to fish on a safe, sturdy platform that easily converts into comfortable seating for the ride to and from the fishing grounds, or when cruising with family and friends. This design was patented, and Daniel is listed on three U.S. Patents associated with these seats.



**Austin, the Stricklands' son,** and his girlfriend, Blair, take time off from fishing to anchor out along the beach and enjoy a beautiful day.



**Bradley and Austin** got a little help from Allie while catching dinner!

Daniel and Stacey had a memorable experience last July 4th when they vacationed in Beaufort, North Carolina. “We fished every day and also took the boat to Cape Lookout,” Daniel recalled fondly. Cape Lookout National Seashore, located on an island off the North Carolina coast, is only accessible by boat. “To get there we traveled across open ocean waters, something we could never have done on the previous boats we owned.” The trip reinforced why Daniel loves to be able to trailer his boat to new destinations and he and



**Stacey enjoys the sunset** off the stern of the family's *Escape 209*.

Stacey look forward to more excursions like this in the future.

For the past eight years Daniel has worked in the Grady-White sales department. He loves it as much as he has his other roles at Grady-White because there’s always something new and exciting to do. “Anytime I help a dealer get a customer into a new boat, I know I’m making someone very happy!” Daniel says.

Reflecting on the start of his career with Grady-White Boats, Daniel recalls, “It didn’t take me long to realize if you are

going to work for a boat company, this is the ONE to work for!” It seems he’s found that with boat ownership as well, as he elaborates on his love for the job, the company, and the boats they make. “I strongly encourage people to purchase a Grady-White. I believe in it! I know the boats inside and out and I have a real passion for the product.”

**The versatility of the 209** allows Daniel and Stacey to fish from a variety of locations in all kinds of weather.



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 Gulfstream Grady Group**, sponsored by Mariner Marine in Riviera Beach, Florida, had their first outdoor event of the year in North Palm Beach, Florida. Six boats with 13 members enjoyed the gathering and an outdoor cookout.

**The Tarpon Coast Grady-White Club**, sponsored by Ingman Marine in Placida/Port Charlotte, Florida, recently held their annual anniversary party celebrating 16 years of active membership.





More than 40 members attended the **Gulfstream Grady Group's** annual party to plan their 2022 outings and welcome new members.



The **Pamlico Grady-White Club**, sponsored by Park Boat Company in Washington, North Carolina, kicked off the 2022 boating season with a gathering at High Water Social, the bar at Inner Banks Marina. Thirty members attended the event where they reviewed plans for trips and gatherings for the coming year.



Welcome to our newest club—the **Emerald Coast Grady-White Owner's Club**, sponsored by MarineMax in Panama City Beach, Florida. They are excited to already have about 20 boating families in the club.



The Annual Roche Harbor Lingcod Derby kicked off summer for the **Northwest Grady-White Club**. Fifteen fish were weighed in after a bit of friendly competition. Carter Lea of Ollala, Washington, won first place with a 15.3lb, 36-inch fish caught in Canadian waters. Guy Hilden and Kim Comstock took second and third with 13.2lb and 12.7lb fish.



This year, 50 members and guests of the **Northwest Grady-White Club**, along with 20 Grady-White boats, converged at Roche Harbor Marina. After two years of restrictions, it was time to get back to normal weekend events, like pizza and happy hour, fishing, and the awards dinner with the traditional Northwest clambake. Many new members were welcomed into the club, receiving their club burgees, and all are looking forward to the Salmon Derby and the Annual Dungeness Crab Rodeo! This club is sponsored by Jacobsen's Marine in Edmonds, Washington.

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

## Letters & Photos



**Darby and Gretchen Miller** enjoy outings and spending time together in Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida, with their three children and young pup, Royal, on their *Marlin 300*.



**Angelo Sakis**, hailing out of their home port in Tarpon Springs, Florida, just received this beautiful *Freedom 307* and can't wait to make great Grady memories!



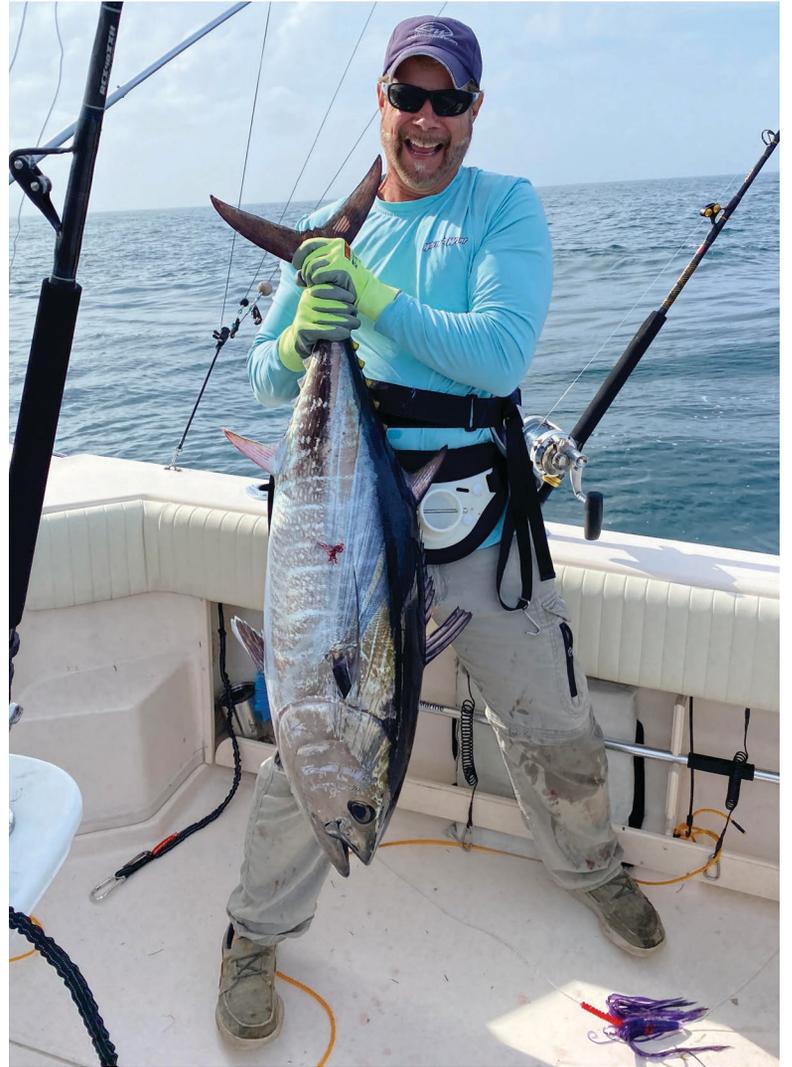
**Scott Maggard** hoists up quite the catch on his *Sailfish 282*. Scott catches mahi and snowy grouper at the Norfolk Canyon running out of Virginia Beach, Virginia.



**Michael Mottolese** is all smiles holding up a black sea bass that he caught on his *Fisherman 216* out of Cos Cob, Connecticut, the north side of Long Island Sound.



**Tom Mack and his crew** caught these mahi on his *Fisherman 236* in the Islamorada Hump, a favored inshore fishing spot off the coast of the Florida Keys.



**John Massaro** proudly shows off this nice bluefin tuna he caught on his *Express 330*.



**Bernard Robinson and his seven-year-old son, Eric,** enjoy treasured father and son time on the family's *Gulfstream 232* as they fish the Chesapeake Bay and the Patuxent River.



**Meredith and Scott Hermann** spend the day relaxing on their newly delivered *Canyon 456*. Quality Boats dealer David notes, "They are happy campers!"

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

## Grady Buddies



**Monroe** likes cruising on the Magothy River and Chesapeake Bay in Maryland on Jaime Katanko's *Canyon 336*, *Embrace the Chaos*.



**Moose** finds the breeze on his face invigorating as he takes a ride on the Wagner family's *Freedom 255* during a hot day in Sarasota Bay, Florida.



Gene McGuire's dog **Grady** boats with him on his *Freedom 275* in the Gulf of Mexico and Charlotte Harbor off Boca Grande, Florida.



**Zeke** likes to chill on the Ramoski family's *Express 370* in Biscayne Bay, Florida.



**Koda**, Rick and Carol Proctor's Boykin Spaniel, takes his first ride aboard their *Tournament 225* around Ocean City, Maryland.



**Hans**, a Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier, LOVES boat rides and fishing trips with his family aboard their *Marlin 300*, in Puget Sound, Washington.



Colleen Phelps' dog, **Leo**, was an old dog of the sea and loved a good ride in their *Freedom 285* on Pleasant Bay in Cape Cod, Massachusetts.



Vicki and Clark Bridgman's dog, **Bentley**, enjoys an outing on their *Canyon 283, Reelaxation*.



**Cinda and Precious**, Missy Sneeden's pups, love relaxing in the forward berth of their Grady-White *Express 330* as they enjoy a fun day in Wrightsville Beach, North Carolina.



Whether it's the ocean or in secret holes around Long Island, New York, **Charlie** loves fishing with David Wolfgang on his *Express 330*.



**Frank** loves to crab and shrimp around Sechart, British Columbia, Canada, on Steven Budd's *Freedom 215!*



**Grady**, a French Bulldog, waits patiently to leave the dock on Mark Heiberger's *Freedom 307* in Barnegat Bay, New Jersey.



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Send us an email at [anchorline@gradywhite.com](mailto:anchorline@gradywhite.com)

# Grady Gear

Show your Grady pride with Grady Gear. From SPF protective shirts, hats in all styles, and boat accessories, to coolers, games, and collars for your Grady Buddy – we have something for everyone on board! [gradygear.geigershops.com](http://gradygear.geigershops.com)



WOMEN'S GENRE POLO



MARLIN LONG SLEEVE PERFORMANCE SHIRT



GRADY-WHITE RIVIERA  
PESHTEMAL BEACH TOWEL



GRADY-WHITE DOG BUCKLE COLLAR



PINK PERFORMANCE HAT



TERVIS WIDE MOUTH  
STAINLESS BOTTLE (24OZ)