

GRADY-WHITE | EXCEPTIONAL ATTENTION TO DETAIL | WWW.GRADYWHITE.COM | SPRING 2024

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Dear Grady Friends:

If you haven't already heard, we've had a fantastic start to 2024! In February, at the Miami International Boat Show, we introduced two fabulous new boats to our lineup that are turning heads.

The new 231 Coastal Explorer is a new model that fits perfectly into our special Coastal Explorer series. Based on the popularity of our 251 CE, the new 231 is a smaller version that packs many of the great features of both its bigger sisters, to deliver a great boat in the 23-foot size range with more bells and whistles than any competitor models.

At the other end of our product size range, we once again set a new industry standard with the introduction of the *Freedom* 415 – the largest outboard powered dual console boat on the market today. This beautiful new model is both luxurious and rugged, incorporating many elements from our top-of-the-line Canyon 456 while introducing new features that herald from the finest sportfishing yachts and family cruising boats. The word is out, this boat is amazing and you're going to love it!

Together, these two new models, along with the recently introduced Canyon 386, bring our model offerings to a total of 28!

Another exciting event happened in Miami when we received our 22nd consecutive Customer Satisfaction Index Award from the National Marine Manufacturers Association - that's an award for every single year the award has been given. This award comes directly from the surveys you fill out after purchasing your new Grady-White. Customer satisfaction is one of the most important pillars of our business – something we collectively strive for every day with each boat we build.

In this issue of Anchorline, we talked with marine biologist and Grady-White devotee, Dr. Barbara Block, who tags giant white sharks off the Pacific coast from a Grady-White Gulfstream 232. She and her team believe in the ultra-seaworthy safety of their Grady while they do their important work in rough conditions year after year. We hope reading about her research will inspire you as it does us in supporting conservation efforts and being good stewards of our oceans, waterways, and the creatures that we share our world with – all of us depend on a healthy environment.

In our region, the days are starting to get longer and we're counting on the groundhog's prediction of an early spring so we can spend more time with friends and family on our Grady-White boats! For those of you that are already enjoying beautiful days, send us your photos (especially high-quality ones) so we can live vicariously through your boating adventures until we can get back out on the water too. Your love for your Grady-White boats truly brings us joy every day!

We wish you many days of happy boating,

- Easie Smith h.

Eddie Smith, Jr., Chairman, CEO

Kris Carroll, President





On the cover: Check out the huge beam of the new Canyon 386 with four seats at the helm!

What's hidden inside is a luxurious cabin that sleeps two and has a roomy enclosed head.

Powered by triple Yamaha 450s, this boat is a fishing beast and cruising machine you have to see to believe.

THE NEW 231 COASTAL EXPLORER

A Sporty, Stylish, and Family Friendly Fishing Boat

Fully equipped with the outstanding performance of the inshore version of the SeaV²® hull, the all-new *231 Coastal Explorer* offers superb sportscar-like handling, rough water capabilities, and the nimble ability to fish in some of the skinniest water. Built with quality and craftsmanship for true owner satisfaction, the *231 CE* is perfect for those looking for an inshore boat in the 23-foot class.



"GET THE GRADY NOW!"

Move from 255 to 335 Presents Even More Opportunities for this Fishing and Whale Watching Grady Family

A whale breaches off the bow of Carlton and Patty Geckler's Freedom 335 and they are once again reminded why they got the Grady! "Long offshore trips require a reliable, capable boat," said Carlton, who grew up fishing on boats in Long Island, New York. After a hiatus from boating during college and while he started his career, Carlton began dreaming of boating again. That dream became a reality after he and Patty purchased a cottage for weekend retreats on Cape Cod. Later that year, they attended the New England Boat Show. While they looked at more than just Grady-Whites, Carlton said, "Grady-White was such a well-respected, quality boat builder, with unparalleled customer satisfaction, I knew I was going to give them serious consideration." Once there, the Gecklers fell in love with the dualpurpose setup of the Freedom series



boats. An avid fisherman, Carlton wanted to be able to fish both inshore and offshore, but the boat also had to be wellsuited for Patty's favorite pastime, cruising and entertaining. The *Freedom 255* proved to be the right boat for both of them and that's when their Grady Life began.

Cape Cod is an amazing place to fish, and for years Carlton enjoyed taking the five-toeight-mile offshore trips with his sons, Ryan and Sean, as well as friends. Patty enjoyed a little inshore fishing, but mostly preferred leaving the long offshore trips to the boys. Eventually, Carlton started dreaming again this time of going farther offshore. He and Patty were leaning toward a Freedom 325, but a trip to the Miami International Boat Show gave them an opportunity to climb aboard the Freedom 335 and they were sold. While Carlton noted that both boats were great, it was the larger beam on the 335 that made it more of an upgrade from the 255. He also liked the fact that the Yamaha 425s would get him to the fishing grounds faster.

The 335 has opened up even more options



for this Grady loving family. Through the years, the Gecklers moved around a lot, and now they spend the winters at their home in Florida and summers on Cape Cod. Needless to say, they have friends from all over the United States who like to come visit. Cape Cod is the place to be in the summer, so they have guests often. Of course, spending time on the boat is the main attraction as everybody loves to anchor out at the sandbar, listen to music, and fire up the grill for a meal.

When it comes to fishing, Carlton gets excited talking about his long offshore trips. "Normally I go about 30 to 60 miles offshore for bluefin tuna, yellowfin tuna, wahoo, mahi, and swordfish, but last year I took three buddies 120 miles out to the





Canyons. It was a four to five hour run to get there," Carlton said. "The guys really appreciated the overnighting capabilities of the boat with a cabin, a head, and a generator." This was a special memory for Carlton, one he hopes he can relive once or twice a year. "We caught lots of large mahi," Carlton said. "But, what really stood out to me was the sense of accomplishment I felt as a mariner, a captain, and a fisherman." When they return, Patty is at the dock ready to help package and freeze the fish as Carlton cleans them. "We love having fish for our meals, and so does our family and friends that we share it with," Patty said. "Usually, we have a freezer full in Cape Cod and when we head to Florida for the winter, we





get dry ice and take what's left with us." While she doesn't care for long fishing trips with the guys, one offshore trip Patty never misses is whale watching. Usually about 40 miles offshore, they will see other marine life including dolphin, seals, sharks, and turtles. "One time we saw several white sharks basking on the surface of the ocean," recalls Patty. "All our friends hope this trip falls on the weekend they are visiting!" It was on one of these trips that Patty finally got to see what Carlton's fishing expeditions are all about and why he loves it so much. "I'm always looking for an opportunity to fish, and never leave the rods at home, no matter where we are going," Carlton said. On a whale watching expedition, Carlton





put out the lines in search of tuna and they hooked one. This was Patty's chance and she sprung into action. "I got to fight the tuna and experience the same rush Carlton enjoys with his friends," said Patty. Though it was one of her most memorable moments on the boat, she's okay with letting Carlton do the long offshore fishing trips while she relaxes at home. "I'm happy for him that he can go and experience what he loves," she says, "and when he gets back we can go out together and do what I love."

Carlton also likes to entertain work colleagues on the boat. Working in the tech industry, he comes in contact with many people who have never been boating or fishing. "It's rewarding to give them a great experience in boating," Carlton says. He reflects on the qualities of the boat that enable him to go out with confidence.



"I call the waters around Cape Cod 'the big boy ocean' because there are lots of currents and lots of shallow and deep waters. You need a capable boat to navigate them all." While he is always safety conscious, Carlton says you can get caught out on the water when the wind picks up. "I've been in 10-to-12-foot seas and am never concerned thanks to such a safe and reliable boat," he notes.

While they knew this from their experience owning the 255, a trip to the factory after ordering the 335 just reinforced their Grady decision. Patty didn't grow up on boats, so the trip was very interesting to her. A self-proclaimed geek, Carlton said he had lots of questions and was very impressed to see how the boats were made from the ground up. "It was impressive how many human hands touch a boat in production," said Carlton.



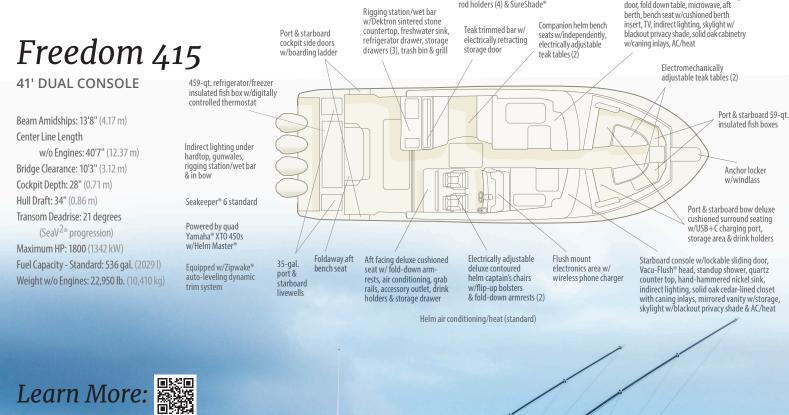
"Their skill, knowledge, craftsmanship, and passion for building the boats was amazing to see."

This past summer, Carlton and Patty experienced one of their best moments of boating – seeing the look of delight on the face of their granddaughter, Cora as she took her first boat ride. "She just loves it," said Patty. Whether sitting on grandpa's lap helping him drive or riding up in the bow with grandma, mom, dad, and uncle Ryan, Cora loves the wind and likes to shout, "Go faster!" Now, the Gecklers are eagerly anticipating the arrival of summer so they can continue their adventures with friends and family - especially Cora! "I didn't grow up boating, so I didn't know what my boys and I were missing," said Patty. "Now that I do, my advice to you is stop waiting for someday and get the Grady now!"

THE NEW FREEDOM 415

The Ultimate in Freedom

The largest outboard powered dual console ever built, the new *Freedom 415* delivers the ultimate in freedom with its perfect blend of rugged fishability and meticulously appointed luxury. Drawing from the highly acclaimed *Canyon 456*, the *415*'s spacious cockpit includes all the coveted fishing features you'd find in a large sportfishing yacht with an added emphasis on comfort.



GRADY-WHITE

For complete details visit gradywhite.com

GRADY-WHITE CLUBS CREATE LASTING FRIENDSHIPS

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**. Visit gradywhite.com/clubs for links to club websites.

Each year, at the onset of winter, a special breed of boat owners that simply cannot bear to be away from their boats during the cold months ship them to Florida. A good number of Great Lakes boaters out of South Shore Marine in Ohio do just that. Tom Mack, now-retired founder of South Shore Marine, said that for many years the dealership has helped customers ship their boats out of state for the winter. "We service them, load them up, and take them south," he said. "Then in the spring we bring them back, get all the salt off of them, and get them back in the water here for the spring and summer."

This fall, the **Lake Erie Grady-White Club**, sponsored by South Shore Marine, decided they'd reach out to all the members that take their boats to Florida and plan a rendezvous in Islamorada. Club member and Commodore, Mike Manion, contacted Tom to help him put together a list of all the members that take their boats to Florida so they could send out invitations. They then went to work securing a venue. Safe Harbor Angler House proved to be a great spot where they could gather and share a meal. In the invitation, Mike noted that there would be hamburgers - if they didn't catch any fish. But, Tom said, "there's no way we're eating burgers." And he coordinated a trip with Mike and Will Kruger, the South Shore Delivery Captain, to go out fishing that morning, and their efforts did not disappoint. "The Keys are like Disney for fishermen," Tom said. They

caught more than enough to feed the 20 plus members in attendance and then some extras. Tom notes that Grady owners are always such friendly people, so it's no wonder that when two Grady-White boats pulled up to the marina, one from Michigan and one from New York, the group said, "Join us!" They stayed for hours and left with the plan to join the group when they return next year. Several Florida clubs also heard about the rendezvous and have expressed interest in participating as well.

When thinking about the event, Tom said, "The best part about being in the boating business is boating. And, with that comes getting together with great people and making memories as we share our common love of boating."





Back home in Ohio, the **Lake Erie Grady-White Club** had another successful fishing seminar hosted at South Shore Marine.



The Gulfstream Grady Group, sponsored by Mariner Marine, gathered to kick off a new year filled with many new adventures.



The Tidewater Grady-White Club, sponsored by Norfolk Marine in Virginia, wrapped up 2023 with a party after a great year of events. From fishing tournaments, raft ups to watch the Blue Angels, a trip to the Grady-White factory, and a river foliage cruise, the club stayed busy! We can't wait to see what they have in store for 2024.



The Tampa Bay Grady-White Club, sponsored by Quality Boat Sales, celebrated Gasparilla Day at their first gathering of 2024. With a calendar filled with Saturday brunch gatherings, day and overnight trips, and two fishing tournaments, it looks like their year is going to be exciting!



Thirty-four members of the **Chesapeake Bay Grady-White Club**, sponsored by Tri-State Marine, enjoyed lively conversation at their annual Christmas in January party. The Grady-White gifts and raffle prizes were also a hit!

GRADY-WHITE SUPPORTS RESEARCH AND CONSERVATION

Science Tells a Story that Leads the Way to Protect and Preserve

Dr. Barbara Block is known worldwide for over four decades of ground-breaking pelagic research. Her research on tuna, white sharks, and billfish has been critically important to understanding these species and has helped to inform conservation efforts relating to them. Dr. Block's work, which often uses electronic tags to track fish, began in part along the coast of North Carolina, when she was pursuing her graduate studies at Duke University at the Marine Lab in Beaufort, North Carolina.

Dr. Block was fascinated with how billfish such as blue marlin and swordfish could keep their brain and eyes warm with a thermogenic tissue she was studying. This took her to the local tournaments. She became more interested in the ecology of how the fish used warm brains, and in the case of tunas' warm muscles, and wanted to start tracking the fish in the sea. At that time, electronic tagging technology was just emerging. While tagging animals was not new, tagging creatures that lived in the ocean proved to be infinitely more challenging. First, the tags had to operate under the water - potentially at tremendous pressures down to 6000 feet; and second, researchers had to find methods to get the information back from the tags once the tagged fish were released back into the ocean. Because radio waves cannot travel through water, GPS is almost impossible to use in the ocean under the surface. Therefore, the information from the tags can only be gathered when the tag itself is collected, or when it returns to the surface of the water. Dr. Block and her team started working on a few types of tags that are now used to collect data. Some store data on the tag's memory chip and require the fish to be caught, others release themselves from the tagged fish automatically and float to the surface,

where they can transmit the data through radio uplink to Earth-orbiting satellites. Modern tags have continued the understanding of where these fish go with an unusual twist. The tags measure light and time very accurately and Dr. Block's team can geolocate the tuna or billfish underwater with an algorithm that uses the time of sunrise and sunset to estimate local noon at the fish's location. This, along with data on temperature, depth, power and speed, and accelerometry, provides behaviors for when the fish interact with prey. They can even be equipped with cameras to provide even greater insight into their lives, habits, and the animals they prey upon.

Dr. Block initiated tagging of tunas in Hatteras, North Carolina where she met Eddie Smith while fishing one day with Charles Perry and Peter Wright. These two, along with many fishers of the region, also helped Block tag many fish. It is there, in N.C., that she has



Drs. Block and Chapple use a small 1-pound piece of whale meat to attract the shark to the decoy. Once they have the shark's attention, they reel the decoy in to bring the shark closer to the boat.

© Stanford University Photo: Connor Gallagher tagged over 1000 bluefin tuna as well as more than 2000 in the Atlantic Ocean from Canada to Norway. She has worked tirelessly to advance the tracking capabilities, ultimately developing with



three companies a variety of tags that work in the ocean environment. As a result of this work, important new facts about the migration habits of the white shark and other pelagic fish, crucial to monitoring and understanding the ocean's ecosystem, have been discovered to help protect these giant predators. The first electronic tag prototypes were developed in the early 90s to study bluefin tunas and later, blue marlin. By the late 90s, Dr. Block began using them to study the white shark population off the Central California Coast. Before that time, it was believed that the white shark was a coastal species that traveled up and down the coast hunting sea lions and elephant seals. From their tagging data, they discovered that the white sharks, one of the largest predators in California waters, only stay on the coast from August to February, then they travel

about halfway between Hawaii and California to a place called the "White Shark Café," about 1200 nautical miles from the central California coast. Occasionally, they travel all the way to Hawaii and the Northwest Hawaiian Islands, and no one really knows why.

As we can imagine, tagging a pelagic creature is no easy feat. As their work progressed, Dr. Block tested a number of sea-going craft for the task. Different sizes and types are used for various aspects of the research, but she was not satisfied that she had found the perfect vessel. She knew they needed a sturdy boat for the job - one that would handle rough conditions and allow them to get the most tagging days possible on the water. From her previous work in North Carolina, she knew the rugged durability and quality of Grady-White boats, so in 2015 she reached out to



Grady-White for help. "With the assistance of a local dealer in North Carolina, we were able to find Dr. Block a used *Gulfstream 232,*" Grady-White Vice President of Marketing, Shelley Tubaugh recalled. "We

helped her coordinate the shipping to our California dealer, who equipped the boat for Dr. Block and her Stanford team. They named the boat *Blue Serengeti* and set to work tagging sharks offshore."

The name of the boat was a nod to the ocean's parallel to the great Serengeti in Africa. The ocean systems are vital to the survival of the planet in the same way. The Blue Serengeti operates out of the Hopkins Marine Station, and Dr. Block and her talented team were featured in a Discovery Channel documentary of the same name in 2016: The Blue Serengeti. Dr. Block and Stanford's team of researchers used their Grady-White boat to tag sharks on camera for the hour long special. "I love our Stanford Grady-White 232," Barbara said. "The Pacific Ocean in Monterey is relatively rough and cold, and I do feel safe in the challenging conditions we often face, even with a 2-ton white shark below!" They have used the Grady-White for an estimated 200 trips when the sharks return annually to the Farallones and Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuaries offshore of northern California and also tagging Pacific bluefin tuna.

Tagging is a painstaking process, and much like fishing, it takes skill and patience. The research team of Stanford students and postdocs along with Dr. Block and a captain, often go out before light in October and November from Santa Cruz Harbor. They work under very strict permits issued by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric

Administration logging over 30 days at sea up until early January when storms make it too dangerous. Once they arrive at Ano Nuevo, they are permitted to use a bait and switch technique - a seal shaped decoy attached to a fishing rod. The bait is a 1-to-2-pound piece of whale meat which puts the scent in the water to attract the shark's attention. Once the shark has come near the boat the researchers use the decoy. As the shark shows interest in the decoy, it is reeled toward the boat to bring the white shark within tagging distance. If the bait and switch works, they can easily get the large sharks, sometimes as big as 19 feet, to the stern of the boat. The tag is attached to a long pole and is placed into the musculature at the base of the dorsal fin with a strategically placed dart and tag tether. When the mission of the tag is complete, a current is put through a metal pin and the tag "pops up" jettisoning slowly to the surface and delivering the data to the satellite. Like fishing, the results can greatly vary; some days they tag 10 - 12 sharks, and

some days none.

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The white sharks are identified as individuals by the unique trailing edge of their dorsal fins which are like a person's fingerprints. Each one is different. Using photographs, Block Lab researchers have been able to identify individual sharks and although they have an official number assigned to them for scientific documentation, some of them have special names. A number of the sharks have been coming back for almost three decades, like Mr. Burns, a large shark who visits year after year. The team becomes anxious when one of their long-time subjects doesn't return on schedule, wondering what happened along its journey. Using the information from the tags, the researchers can track if their patterns stay the same or change over time. This also enables researchers to better estimate the number of adult white sharks on California's Central Coast, which they believe to be approximately 300. Population numbers of predator to prey and the overall health

of the ecosystem at any given time.

Dr. Block's work has often been carried out in close collaboration with other researchers. For example, the Tagging of Pacific Predators (TOPP) program was one of the field projects of the global Census of Marine Life. This project involved more than 80 researchers from 5 different nations, collaborating on tagging 23 different species of marine animals including sharks, tunas, seals, sea turtles, seabirds, and even squid. Over the decade of the TOPP program, TOPP scientists deployed more than 4,300 tags and collected more than 450,000 days of animal tracking data providing an unprecedented look at the functioning of the North Pacific open ocean ecosystem. Some of these collaborations live on to the present, as Dr. Block has continued working closely with Dr. Dan Costa at the University of California, Santa Cruz. He has been tagging elephant seals and sea lions for as long as Dr. Block has been tracking highly migratory fish and sharks.

approximately 300. Population numbersAn important and noteworthy example ofare important in determining the dynamicsthe benefits of Dr. Block's research can be seenof predator to prey and the overall healthwith the population of giant Atlantic bluefincontinued on back cover

© Stanford University Photo: Connor Gallagher The Blue Serengeti stands ready for tagging off the Ano Nuevo coast in the winter of 2020

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Grady Buddies



Zoey happily rides on Michael Junkins' Fisherman 257 in Fenwick Island, Delaware.



Rosco and Knox appreciate the breeze off the bow of Andrei Sfintescu's *Freedom 215* along the coast of Florida.



Tux relaxes on a cruise around Pompano Beach, Florida on Mike Shepard's *Freedom 335*.



Rocco enjoys New Year's Eve on Enrique Canton's *Fisherman 216* in Key Largo, Florida.



Lumi and Pemi, enjoy the day on Brian and Christine Fisher's *Freedom 235* in Duxbury, Massachusetts.



Ruby appreciates the nice day on the water of Cape Cod, Massachusetts on Larry Freedman's Freedom 275.



Murphy and Riley relax in the bow of Ken Finkelstein's *Freedom 215* off the coast of Maryland.

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

Letters & Photos



Kent and Heidi Schneidewind love to cruise around Lake Michigan and Branched Oak Lake with family and their Grady Buddy **Lucy** on their *Freedom 225*.



Patrick Carlucci and family with their *Express 330* in Gloucester, Massachusetts.



Oliver shows off his big catch aboard Jonathan Del's *Freedom 325*.

Striped bass fishing out of Barnegat Inlet off the New Jersey coast on Joseph Mitchell's *Express 305*.



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Science Tells a Story... continued

tuna. She has continued her work with this species in the Atlantic Ocean and has seen an incredible recovery of the species with proper management, based in part on her scientific findings. This work relies on the use of archival tags, which are surgically implanted into the body of the tuna with a portion of the tag projecting out. This allows the tag to log body temperature, external temperatures, and light. To date, the team has put almost 1000 archival tags in both the Atlantic and Pacific oceans on bluefin, and 400 on yellowfin and albacore. When a tagged tuna is caught, the fishermen can return the tag for a reward with information usually apparent about how to return the tag on a green conventional on the second dorsal. Rewards are \$1000, so if you see a green tag remember the tag is in the fish! Once the tag is in the lab it provides a wealth of information that has helped protect the

fishery and keep tuna fishing prolific and viable. Today, a 5th generation of students are tracking the return of the tuna. Dr. Block notes, "Science led the way to tell the story of the tuna." The data showed how much dynamic movement between stocks occurs in the bluefin tuna fishery, and Dr. Block anticipates, with managers incorporating the data into the management models, this species will be healthy for a long time.

Dr. Block has also spearheaded the International Great Marlin Race with the International Game Fish Association, and together they have tagged over 500 Billfish with Citizen Scientists leading the way. This year one of the most fascinating tales that emerged from billfish tags was a Big Rock blue marlin that went as far south post June tagging as Southern Brazil!

For her next generation of work, Dr. Block hopes to develop a tag that will send an alert when a tagged fish is taken out of the water, and hopefully deter poachers – in particular for sharks and billfish in waters where international fishers are plentiful. In the meantime, she and her team continue their work from the Blue Serengeti, their reliable and capable Grady-White, tagging sharks, reviewing the data, and furthering the understanding of how to keep our ocean and sea life healthy – letting nature work like nature has always worked.

"I'm not done yet," says Dr. Block. "I've got a good 10 years left to continue this vital research that would not be possible without contributions from many important sponsors." If you want to learn more or donate, check out the Tag-A-Giant website: *www.tagagiant.org* or Hopkins Marine Station:

hopkinsmarinestation.stanford.edu. For more information on tagging of pelagic predators visit: gtopp.org.