



Anchorline

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE GRADY LIFE



HAPPY

New Year

2024



Dear Grady Friends:

Another amazing year closes, and we are once again very grateful for our team, our dealers, our supplier partners, and most of all, you, our customers. As we head into 2024, we have a fantastic new boat model: the stylish and beautiful *Canyon 386*! The 386 is filled with luxurious features, many borrowed from our flagship *Canyon 456*, that enhance its cruising attributes while remaining dedicated to hardcore fishing. The 386 debuted at the Fort Lauderdale International Boat Show, but first we had a chance to show it off at our recent worldwide Dealer Conference here in Greenville, North Carolina. This gathering is like a family reunion for our whole team. Many of our dealer partners have been with us for over four decades and are entering into the second, third, or even fourth generation of ownership. We are incredibly blessed to have such wonderful people to work with, to represent our company, and most importantly, to make sure all of you are well taken care of!

Speaking of 2024, our team is constantly designing new features into both current and new models, so if you have the chance, visit your dealer or come see us at an upcoming boat show and let us share the latest additions and upgrades. We're always looking for new ways to delight you, our dedicated customers, so come check it out!

Along with the new model, we also unveiled a new engine color! We are excited to announce we are now installing "Classic White" Yamaha factory-painted engines. The new engines perfectly match our signature Grady-White gelcoat. This new engine color is now the standard for all boats with Yamaha 300HP and up engines. They are arriving at dealerships now and they sure look great!

As you read this issue of *Anchorline*, we hope you'll be inspired by a story about our Lake Erie Grady-White Club who use their boats to enhance the lives of others in their community. We are so proud to see this often from our clubs and Grady-White owners in general – you are all such truly generous and giving people – and we are so thankful to call you family. Keep those stories and pictures coming! We share them here with our team and it reminds us we help others recharge their emotional batteries as they make lasting memories with family and friends, on the water in a Grady-White boat.

Wishing you lots of happy boating and a healthy and prosperous New Year!

With warmest regards and many thanks,

Eddie Smith, Jr.

Eddie Smith, Jr., Chairman, CEO

Kris Carroll

Kris Carroll, President



Barbie Breaux caught this beautiful 18-pound red snapper in the Gulf of Mexico on her *Express 370*.



On the cover: Brad French enjoys marlin fishing aboard his *Express 330* in the waters off Sydney, Australia.

THE NEW CANYON 386

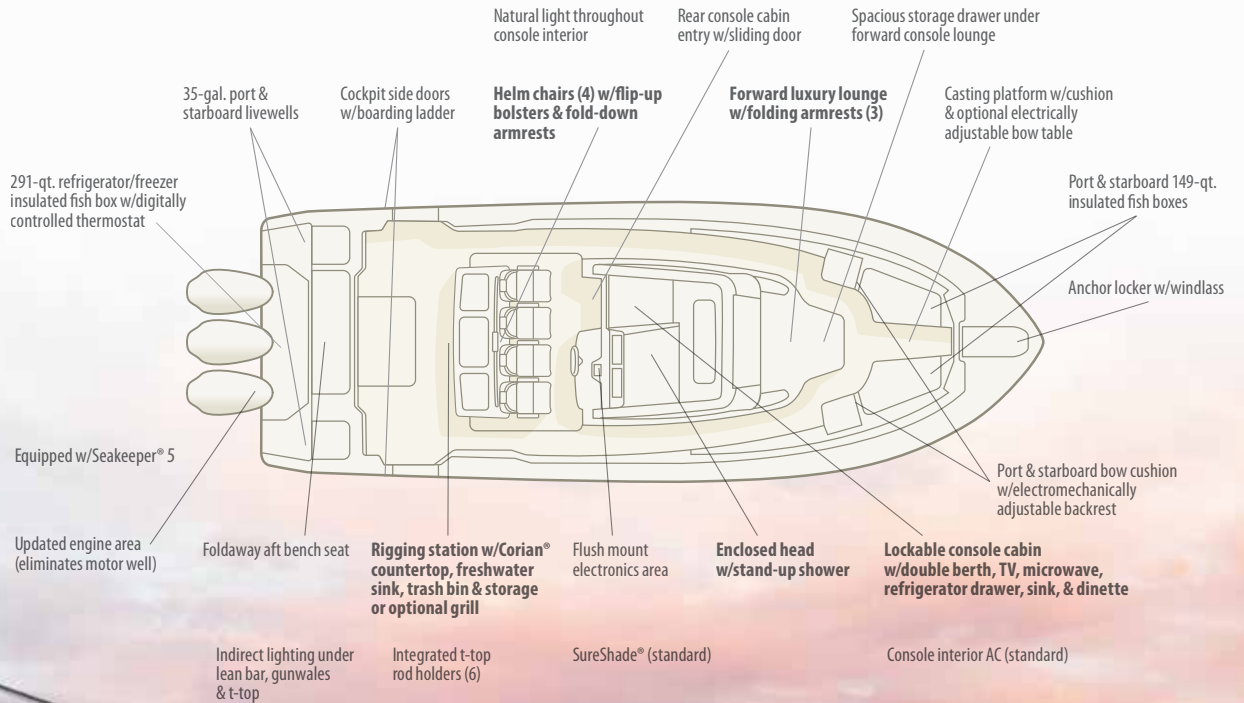
Grady's Latest Design Triumph

Both rugged and refined, the new *Canyon 386* delivers more square footage than any other boat of its class. Whether you're making memories with family and friends or out for offshore fishing, the four seats at the helm, spacious cabin with a separate head, luxurious bow lounge, and feature-packed cockpit promise to deliver the ultimate in boating satisfaction. See some highlights below or visit the web for all the details.

Canyon 386

37' CENTER CONSOLE

Beam Amidships: 13'2" (4.01 m)
Center Line Length
w/o Engines: 36'6" (11.13 m)
Bridge Clearance: 9'3" (2.83 m)
Cockpit Depth: 28" (0.71 m)
Hull Draft: 28" (0.71 m)
Transom Deadrise: 20 degrees
(SeaV²® progression)
Maximum HP: 1350 (1007 kW)
Fuel Capacity - Standard: 410 gal. (1552 l)
Weight w/o Engines: 14,950 lb. (6781 kg)



Learn More: 

For complete details visit gradywhite.com



LAKE ERIE CLUB

Grady-White Club Gives Back to the Community

If you meet anyone from the Lake Erie Grady-White Club, you'll learn quickly they are a competitive bunch. This is most evident if you follow their annual fishing tournaments on Facebook. While they fish for money, the real heart's desire of every boat and crew is to win the gold burgee. Truth be told, the most important aspect of winning is the bragging rights that come with it. However, once you get to know them better, you'll learn that there is more to this group than the gold burgee – it's the hearts they have for helping others while sharing their love of boating and fishing.

South Shore Marine in Huron, Ohio, sponsors this active club with the goal of enriching and expanding boating opportunities for their Grady-White customers. Part of that enrichment includes a fishing seminar hosted at the dealership. This event has grown with attendance today topping out at around 250. In addition to the speakers, the seminar features vendors who sell boating and fishing equipment. The club assists with the event and added a raffle, with the proceeds going to a local charity. Initially the funds went to support the Walleyes for Wounded Heroes event – a four-day Lake

Erie fishing program benefitting injured military and first responders. However, after a few successful years, they were ready to expand their community support to touch other local organizations.

Soon after they decided to expand their charitable contributions, club member Mike Manion turned on the news to a story about a local charity, Youth Challenge, that supports paraplegic teenagers. Mike thought, "That's a group the club should connect with." They did, and proposed a unique event – taking wheelchair bound teens fishing. To ensure a safe and successful event for both the teens and





club members, the club determined they would need a dedicated boat for each youth, and each boat would assign a captain to manage the boat, a mate to help with the fishing, and a volunteer to assist the teen. They also designated a group to stay on land and cook a meal all the participants would enjoy together when they returned.

Soon, the club's efforts truly came "full circle" when the volunteers that came forward to help were none other than the Walleyes for Wounded Heroes group the club had been supporting. Now in its third year, the Youth Challenge staff refer to the event as their "Super Bowl" – an exciting day where the youth they serve get to go

out on a boat and fish, a feat they never thought possible.

The club doesn't stop there. Their philanthropy extends throughout the community as they also support the local food bank and the Chris and Owen Kedas Memorial Derby. The derby is one of the three fishing tournaments that make up





the Lake Erie Grady-White Club Triple Crown and raises funds for sports scholarships and equipment. It also supports activities that help those grieving the loss of a child.



“Fishermen are generous people,” says Mike Manion. “We love to have fun together and get lots of kicks out of ribbing one another during our fishing tournaments, but our

greatest reward is using our boats to do something meaningful that enhances the lives of others – just like how our lives are enhanced by our Grady-White boats.”



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.



From ocean crossings to a picnic close to home, the **Gulfstream Grady Group** stays busy! (Top) Seven boats from the club were excited to get back to the Bahamas once more. Like one big family, this group has made the trip many times and loves spending time together. (Bottom) Close to home, they held a picnic at Dubois Park in Jupiter, Florida.



Eighteen boats from the **Suncoast Grady-White Club** traveled to Naples, Florida, stopping in Cabbage Key for lunch on the way to their weekend stay at the Cove Inn where they enjoyed great weather, food, and lots of laughs.

The **Northwest Grady-White Club** had their annual fall rodeo in Langley, Washington. Eleven members were greeted with sunshine and the crabs did not disappoint! Later that evening, 18 members gathered for dinner and to welcome new members, Dan and Shane DeWald.



Grady-White Welcomes Dealers to Greenville to Reconnect and Recharge

We welcomed our dealers from all over the United States and around the world to Greenville, North Carolina and the Grady-White factory in October for our Dealer Conference. While we have historically held the conference every two years, it had been four long years since our last dealer meeting due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and everyone was excited to come together again. In addition to catching up with one another, dealers were ready for the opportunity to climb aboard all 26 Grady-White models, including our new *Canyon 386*.

President Kris Carroll welcomed the dealers and spoke about the event feeling like a “family reunion.” We also took a moment to say good-bye to and celebrate the lives of those who had passed since our last meeting. Our Chairman and CEO, Eddie Smith, thanked all of the dealers for attending and for their partnership, saying “The strength and success of Grady-White is due to the strength and the success of our dealers.” Eddie noted that he shared this same message over 30 years ago at another dealer conference, and it still rings true today. Aside from catching up with peers and seeing new boats, this conference also allows the dealers to meet and talk with the leaders of every area of our company. This is where we deepen our

relationships and discuss ways to grow and evolve together to meet today’s challenges and opportunities. Our engineering team is one of the key ingredients in the conference, not only sharing new product developments, but also gathering direct input on design and innovations that dealers share. Many of these ideas come from you, our customers, and are based on your changing wants and needs. This time together makes room for collaboration and creativity, building on our dedication to open communication between us and our dealers, which has helped create our record of unparalleled customer satisfaction. All of this is part of Grady-White and our dealers, working together to deliver the ultimate boating experience to every Grady-White owner.

If you know something about our internal culture at Grady-White, you know we’re all about personal development, learning to be our best in all areas of life during our weekly Friday Focus meetings. So of course, our Dealer Conference is no exception. This year, author Brant Hansen joined us to speak about his book, *Unoffendable*, a favorite on the Grady-White employee reading list. It emphasizes that we each choose our reaction to every moment of every day. We shouldn’t let challenges or misunderstanding get to

us—we can recognize it’s not personal, and even if it was, we have the choice to not react negatively. We all agreed the message was perfect for dealing with many of life’s unavoidable frustrations and helping us remain positive throughout. What a great lesson to share!

To conclude our meeting, we recognized dealers for their accomplishments for the past year, presenting the annual Admiral’s Circle awards for combined excellence in sales and service and the Anchor awards (Bronze, Silver, and Gold) for our top three dealers in sales and in customer satisfaction. We celebrate their success in serving you, our customers. As we said goodbye to the dealers, we were reminded that they are the face of Grady-White that you see much more than those of us here in Greenville. Even if some of you never get the chance to meet anyone from our company in person, we are confident that our dealers are representing us well, because so many of you speak fondly of them often. We are grateful for the commitment and excellence our dealer partners put forth each day on our behalf in taking good care of you.

Everyone headed home energized after enjoying the opportunity to celebrate accomplishments, reconnect relationships, and recharge for the year ahead.



After Working in Just About Every Department, this 43-Year Grady Veteran Has Seen It All

Steve Camp, Grady-White Team Member and Boat Owner

Growing up in Greenville, North Carolina, Steve Camp was familiar with Grady-White Boats. He had personal experience on them, even learning to water ski on the Pamlico River on his cousin's Grady-White *Pamlico*, a 16-foot wooden boat. Years later when he was in college, National Sales Manager, Jim Stoneman, asked Steve to be in a photo shoot for the Grady-White brochure. "That turned out to be my first job with the company," recalls Steve.

When he graduated from East Carolina University in 1980, job opportunities were few and far between, and that summer Steve found himself at the Employment Security Office looking for a job. The woman behind the counter said there were two jobs open: one as a firefighter, and the other at Grady-White Boats. For Steve, the decision was easy, "I'd never seen myself

fighting fires," Steve said with a chuckle. Soon he started working as the leader of the small parts department in the fiberglass fabrication area at Grady-White. By then, all models produced at the company were constructed of fiberglass.

Being young, and in his own words, "short-sighted" – Steve put in his notice after about six months on the job. "I just wasn't sure the boat industry was a good place to work," Steve said. "There were a lot of ups and downs at the time with a challenging economy, high gas prices, and gas shortages, and I just didn't think the work would last." Right away Jim Stoneman told him he couldn't quit because he was in the brochure. But it was Doug Gomes, then production manager and later vice president, that Steve credits for ultimately convincing him to stay.

Doug talked to Steve about his work and then moved him to a position in final finishing. From that point forward Steve spent 20 years moving through nearly every department from quality control to engineering, then purchasing, before finally joining the sales team in 2001. Obviously, his initial assessment of the boating industry was wrong, because 43 years later, he's still at Grady-White, loves his work, and the company is stronger than ever with a bright future.

There's much more to this story than Steve's work success. In retrospect, he also has to credit Grady-White with another personal success story – his marriage. Steve's wife, Janet, also worked at Grady-White. Though they grew up in the same town and had actually attended the same high school, they had never met before. That romance





blossomed into a water-loving, boating family after Steve and Janet married and had two children, Megan and Chris. Now a salesman for Atlantic Marine in Wilmington, North Carolina, Chris likes to say he was “born into it.” As many fathers do, Steve wanted to pass along his love for hunting and fishing to his son. Chris caught his first fish at age four and caught the outdoor bug, too. From then on, if Steve was leaving the house, Chris wanted to tag along. Steve proudly shared this with his co-workers at Grady-White. One of the women he worked with gave him some important advice, saying, “Your daughter wants to go with you as much as your son.” Steve took that advice to heart and started taking Megan along, too, and today she loves the water as much as her dad and her brother.

Today Steve and Janet have three grandchildren; two girls, Macklyn and

Shelby, and a boy, Lincoln. The girls are both four and Lincoln is three. Living in Wilmington, Chris’ daughter, Macklyn, is on the water all the time, but her cousins who live farther inland also have a love of boating. This summer, Steve decided it was time for Shelby and Lincoln to learn to fish. It was all fun until they caught one. “We brought the fish into the boat and Shelby shirked away as Lincoln started to scream as loud as he could,” said Steve. Sounds like Steve has some work to do getting all the grandchildren on board with fishing. Or, maybe he and Janet will just fish in peace on their Grady-White 251 Coastal Explorer. This is not their first Grady; they bought a *Fisherman 180* when the children were young, then traded that for a *Seafarer 226*, before getting the 251 – Steve’s favorite boat! Why? For one, he loves freshwater fishing. But the main reason is that for years he bent the ear of

Grady-White Boats’ President, Kris Carroll, about how he thought they needed to add a bay or inshore style of boat to the lineup. Needless to say, he loves that not only did Grady-White finally build one – they built a phenomenal and top-selling one, and now have a Coastal Explorer model series.

Janet loves the boat too and wants to be on it every weekend possible. Unlike their previous boats, they keep the 251 at the local dealer’s dry storage. Between the versatility of the boat’s design and the ability to easily put it in and out of the water, they’ve used it more than the other two combined. One of the first long distance trips they made on the 251 was with a group of fellow Grady-White employees to River Dunes, a boating resort community on the Neuse River. Traveling down the Pamlico River and through the Intracoastal Waterway was easy, but when they came into the Bay River it was rough.

Some people wouldn't particularly like the chop, but Steve loved seeing how the boat handled adverse conditions. "It took those big waves really well!" he said.

One of the best things about Steve's job is the camaraderie he has developed with fellow Grady-White employees and dealers. Of course, a close second is having the opportunity to go out on lots of Grady-White boats. One memorable time was fishing the Hatteras Marlin tournament on Grady's flagship *Canyon 456*. "Fifteen minutes before the lines out deadline, we hooked up," Steve said. "We caught the last fish of that day and went on to catch and release several others throughout the tournament. It was a great experience for everyone!" In addition to the excitement of numerous fishing trips and tournaments, Steve's fun with his Grady-White family extends beyond boating activities. They've been on hunting trips too! Steve also discovered one of his other loves through his interactions at Grady-White – a love for running. The company regularly has health initiatives, and one year had a team weight loss contest. To lose weight Steve started running. After running his first 5K he asked Chris Smith, a friend and co-worker (also the late son of



The Grady-White running team. pictured left to right: Kirby Pollard, Bert Kelly, Chris Smith, Eddie Rowe, and Steve Camp.

Eddie Smith) if he thought Steve could train to run a marathon in seven months. Chris, being an avid runner, biker, and triathlete, said "yes" and set up a training schedule for Steve to follow. Seven months later he ran his first marathon. Today, Steve is still a runner, logging 100 miles a month and posting about his runs in cities all over the United States when he travels for work.

With such a strong career under his belt, Steve has seen many changes over the years. When he started, Grady-White's largest boat was a *Sailfish 25*. Today, with 26 models in the lineup, their largest boats are almost twice that size and built with features Steve and the entire Grady team never could have imagined more than 40 years ago. He remembers the very first fiberglass hard top and when all boat accessories were put on at the very end of

the production line. Today, every accessory is integrated into the production process including hard tops, rod holders, retractable cockpit shades, grills, livewells, and other options that help each owner customize their boat.

Reflecting on his long career with the company, Steve says, "Grady-White is all about the people. To me, it's the best part about working here. Kris Carroll and the other leaders moved me around to different departments to find the very best fit for me." That approach has worked well not only for the company, but also the many employees that have had fulfilling careers at Grady-White while making lifelong friendships too. It also afforded Steve many opportunities. "The first time I ever flew on an airplane was working for Grady-White. Now I fly all over the country meeting new people and helping put them in the best boats ever made," says Steve, with the same broad smile and enthusiasm he had on that very first photo shoot. Next time you're at a boat show, be on the lookout for Steve Camp. You just might see him out for a pre-show run, or standing near a new model at the show, ready to share with you everything that makes a Grady-White and our boats so special!



Lincoln and Shelby getting ready to fish.



Lincoln, Shelby, and Macklyn love playing on the beach together.



Lincoln wants to be just like his Uncle Chris and Granddaddy—a Grady-White salesman—when he grows up.

GRADY-WHITE



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Letters & Photos



Joe and Caytie Matta and their children pose for family pictures in front of their *Fisherman 209* in Annapolis, Maryland.



Mike Medvinsky cruises along West Dennis, Massachusetts with family and friends on their *Freedom 235*.



Carter and Brittany Pigford recently purchased a *251 CE* and caught this flounder on their maiden voyage in Wilmington, North Carolina.



Chris Sheehan and his grandson, Chris, cruise around Panama City, Florida on his *Freedom 235*.



Nico and Amanda Sfintescu have fun catching king mackerel off the coast of Pompano Beach, Florida on their *Freedom 215*.



Boating off Long Island, New York, Jonathan Fazio says his family is Grady for life!



Taylor Marine Center in Milford, Delaware successfully hosted its annual Fishing Seminar, focusing on community giving. Attendees contributed non-perishable canned goods for the Delaware Food Bank. The event featured offshore and inshore fishing presentations by local experts.

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

Grady Buddies



Tee and Alexa Crenshaw love boating with **Ella** on Lake Wylee in Gastonia, North Carolina on their *Freedom 192*.



Don Kohlhafer takes **Eloise** on a morning cruise along the Chesapeake Bay on his *Freedom 225*.



Shelby enjoys the sights and sounds of Boothbay Harbor, Maine on Scott Alberino's *Freedom 275*.



Maisie, John Linsenmeyer's new Grady Buddy, cruises to the Long Island Sound from Riverside, Connecticut on their *Freedom 335*.

Happy in her favorite spot, **Zoey** loves riding on Chris and Sarah Linkimer's *Canyon 271* out of Hilton Head Island, South Carolina.





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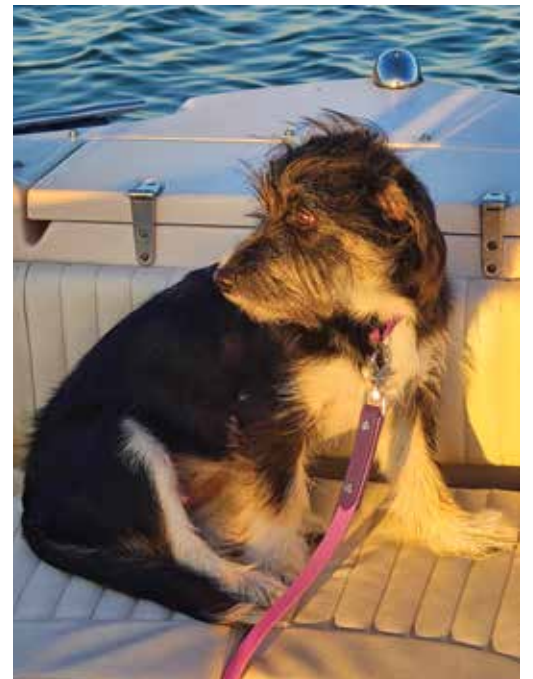
Grady Buddies



Lexi loves spending time along the New Jersey shore with Dorothy Gibson on her *Freedom 275*.



Reece and Jenn Fisher enjoy some sun and fun with pups, **Tucker and Grady**, at Tices Shoal along Island Beach State Park, New Jersey.



Mitzi loves the sunset on Bob Atlas' *Tournament 205* out of Talbot County, Maryland.