



# Anchorline

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE GRADY LIFE



*Express 330*



## Dear Grady Friends:

The days have finally gotten both longer and warmer here in North Carolina as we head into the long-awaited summer months. That means more fulfilling time to spend with family and friends on the water in our beautiful Grady-White boats! From exciting offshore fishing excursions to lazy day picnics at the sandbar, and everything in between, our boats bring us together, providing a unique opportunity to disconnect from our busy lives, so we can reconnect with each other and the great outdoors – a perfect setup for creating lifelong memories.

This year marks the 20th anniversary of our patented foldaway aft bench seat – a refined design that has stood the test of time. This encouraged us to reflect on how far we have come over the past 65 years with not only our exceptional boat designs (remember when the *Marlin 280* was our largest model?), but also the many innovations and patents we've added into our boats – all designed to give you greater value, extra comfort, and more enjoyment. This made us start thinking about all the strides we've made in other areas as well. From embracing new boat building technologies to refining our processes, expanding our state-of-the-art factory, and adding even more emphasis on customer satisfaction, a lot of great things are happening at Grady-White! It's equally exciting to look ahead at the amazing new products in development by our in-house team of designers and coming from our supplier partners, like Yamaha. We are inspired about the future and what it all means for you, our customers, and your boating experiences in the years ahead.

In this issue of *Anchorline*, you'll get to meet some of our enthusiastic customers who have shared their Grady Life with us and clubs that are traveling together and making great Grady memories. We hope seeing their pictures and reading their stories will spark ideas for your next boating adventure.

Plus, product designer, Christian Carraway, gives us some insight into what drives new product designs and what you'll be seeing in the new model year.

We wish you many great days on the water – and look forward to hearing all about them!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Eddie Smith, Jr.".

Eddie Smith, Jr., Chairman, CEO

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kris Carroll".

Kris Carroll, President



**On the cover:** Members of the Northwest Grady-White Club traveled from Edmonds, Washington to Roche Harbor for their annual Lingcod Derby Fishing Tournament. Twenty-two boats made the trip with 50 people gathering on Saturday night to enjoy fellowship with club members and celebrate a great day of fishing.

To find a club near you, visit [gradywhite.com](http://gradywhite.com), and click "Explore." You'll find the Grady Clubs link under "The Grady Life" heading.

## THE GIULIANO FAMILY

# It's Not Just a Boat... It's a Grady-White!

From Pizza Friday to movie night, the Giuliano family of Waterford, Connecticut, can most often be found on their Grady-White *Marlin 300*, even during the cold winter months where it is kept at their marina in Niantic. Yes, they love it that much!

An avid boater, Michael Giuliano's mother says he was boating before he was born, as she and his father often went boating when she was pregnant with him. It was only fitting then that Michael and his wife, Christine, went in search of a boat of their own when she was pregnant with their second child, Molly. Having grown up boating too, Christine did a little research with her dad before they headed to the boat show. She told him about another boat brand they were



considering, and he said, "It's a good boat, but you're going to be disappointed". Then, she asked him about a Grady-White. He replied, "If you buy a Grady-White, you're going to be buying the best!" Michael recalls that his parents have also admired Grady-White boats.

While at the boat show, they met the great people from Boats Inc., and a few months later, now with two children in tow, they purchased a *Freedom 255*. The most appealing aspect of the dual console design for them was the protection from the elements it provided, especially with the curtains. They made a lot of special memories on their *255*, like their son Matthew learning to fish, and their daughter Molly going from riding in the car seat, to crawling, and then to walking on the boat. "You could say she really got her sea legs on that boat, and so did Matthew," Christine recalls. Once the children were a little older, Michael and Christine started thinking it was time for a larger boat, one with a cabin that would allow them to enjoy overnight trips. Christine took it upon herself to reach





out to Boats, Inc. and inquire about their next step in the Grady-White fleet of boats. They wanted added length, a cabin, and more space to fish. Resoundingly, they suggested the *Marlin 300*. She then approached Michael with the idea. He agreed to take a look at the boat, and after some consideration, they bought it, much to Christine's delight.

Since purchasing the *Marlin*, their boating excursions have expanded to include day trips close to home and longer overnight trips. They've been able to introduce the children, now 10 and 5, to the waters around Greenport, Montauk, and Fishers Island in New York, and they love visiting Quonochontaug Pond and Block Island in Rhode Island, where Michael spent time as a young boy and where the boat's namesake, *Blocky*,

originates from. Sometimes Christine heats up dinner in the galley and other times they dock and dine. No matter where they go, the children love spending the night on the boat using the underwater lights to see shrimp, jellyfish, and minnows. The temperature-controlled cabin keeps everyone comfortable, and the full head makes evening routines easy. After they eat popcorn and watch a family movie together in the vee berth, the children shower and brush their teeth then they all settle in for the night – the girls in the vee berth and the boys in the aft berth.

When it comes to their boating habits, the Giuliano family lives by the first in, last out approach. Each year, they are one of the first to splash their boat in the spring, and by the first of May, they have already enjoyed several dinners aboard. Being the

last to haul out for the winter allowed them to enjoy Thanksgiving dinner on the boat this past year. But the boat doesn't have to be in the water for this Grady loving family to enjoy dinner aboard. When they get the winter blues, they put on their coats, grab a few blankets, a pizza, drinks, and a ladder and head to the boatyard for Pizza Friday. Crawling through the zippered opening, they gather under the protection of the white plastic wrap and dream of summer adventures ahead. "It's the best cure for the winter blues," Christine says.

Now that the temperatures are warming, the Giulianos are gearing up for their second summer on the *Marlin 300*, having already put the boat in the water and visiting the marina several times for mid-week dinners. Some of their favorite activities include fishing, anchoring out





and taking paddle boards or kayaks to the beach, getting out the binoculars and following the fleets to see where the best fishing is taking place that day, turning up the stereo for Molly to dance, and watching the submarines as they return to the nearby port. Matthew's love of his Grady-White is evident too, with all his artistic drawings of *Blocky*. Of course, both Matthew and Molly like to sit with dad as he drives the boat. Maybe soon they'll also be sitting with Christine, as she is working to get more comfortable handling the boat. "I'm not 100 percent confident yet," Christine says. "But I'm working on it." Last year she took a boating course and got her license.

The dealership also offered a great course they called "Get your Dock-torate" that taught how to maneuver the boat at the marina. Moving up to the *Marlin* and having the Yamaha HelmMaster™ EX has also been a real game changer. Christine says, "It really makes docking easy!" Michael notes that there are a lot of great things about the *Marlin 300*. "When we get ready to go boating, we really don't mind what the weather is outside – we're protected. We don't worry about the wind anymore either. While you feel the swells, the boat just takes them so well; you're not uncomfortable. We can really go out just about any day!"

Reflecting on their initial decision to get the Grady, Christine says, "Michael works hard and the Grady-White is his reward!" Both have nothing but great things to say about their Grady-White dealer and the boats they have owned. "We're all in!" Michael proclaims. "Our love for Grady-White is a real testament to the quality of boats they build and to our dealer and marina staff, who go above and beyond to make their customers happy. I've never seen anything like it! I can say with 100 percent assurance, we're going to enjoy many years on this boat, and if we decide we want another boat – it will be another Grady." Christine adds, "We don't just have a boat...we have a Grady-White!"



BY KATIE CREECH

# Grady-White Boats Prove Perfect for Pacific Northwest's Harsh Conditions

Katie Creech, Grady-White Marketing team member and Club Liaison, traveled from the Grady-White factory in Greenville, North Carolina, to Jacobsen's Marine in Edmonds, Washington to participate in the Northwest Grady-White Club's annual Lingcod Derby.

"Take the wheel."

Tom practically leapt into the cockpit and started rigging rods at expert pace, eager to get on a lingcod before the 3:30 p.m. tournament cutoff that was fast approaching. I reluctantly agreed and slid into the captain's chair of the brand-new *Gulfstream 232*, peering at the massive rocks just feet off our starboard side.

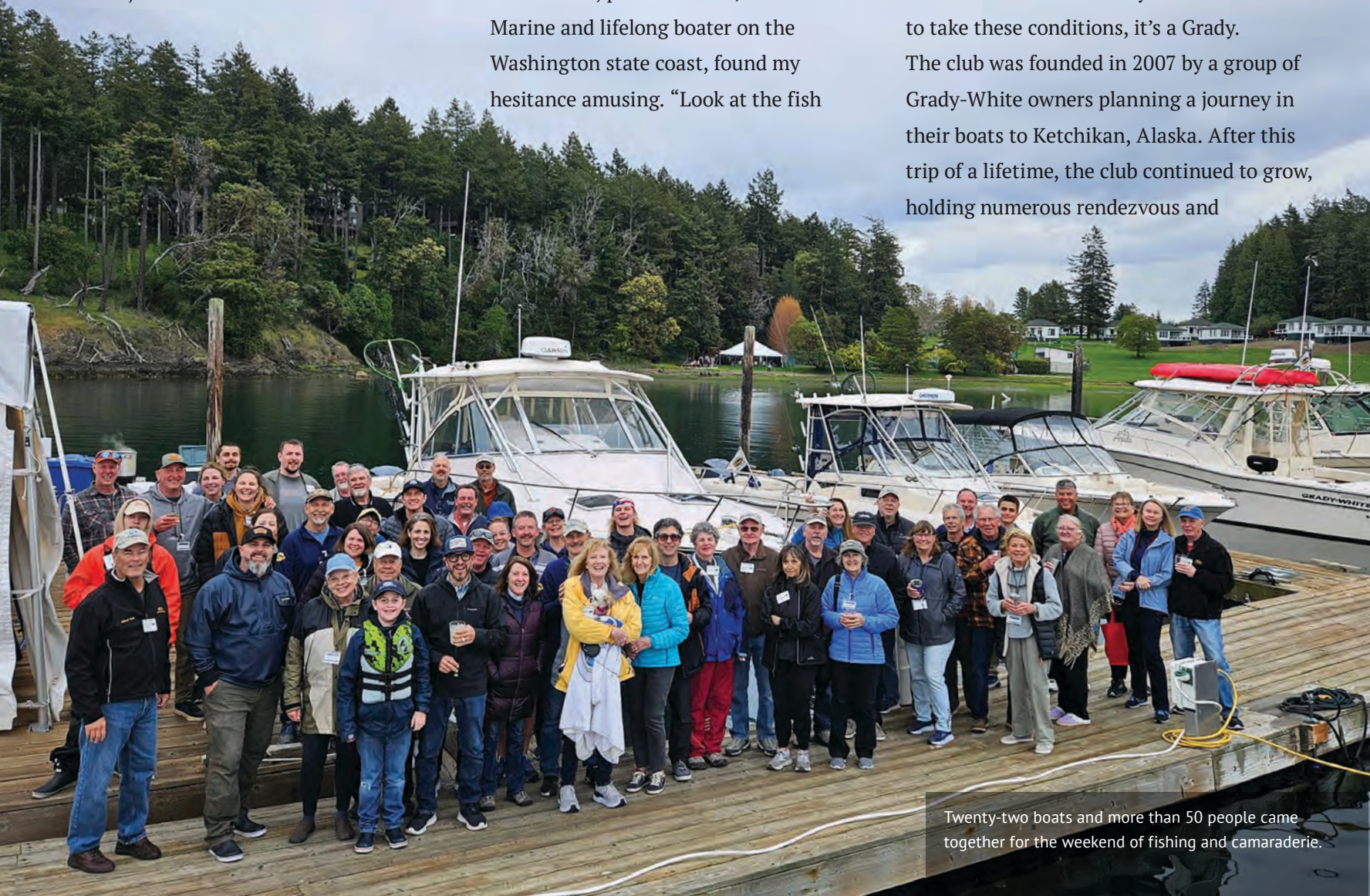
I've been comfortable on boats since before I could walk, but my confidence at the helm leaves a little to be desired – particularly for my first time in the Pacific Northwest, where jagged cliffsides and debris lurk in lieu of the more forgiving sandbars and marshes back home on the Carolina coast.

Tom Ross, part owner of Jacobsen's Marine and lifelong boater on the Washington state coast, found my hesitation amusing. "Look at the fish

finder – you're in 100 feet of water. Just follow my lead and you'll be fine."

Then, less comfortingly adding, "There are two types of boaters up here: those who've hit stuff and those who will."

While Tom's quip could be true, the members of the Northwest Grady-White Club made one thing clear throughout my trip with them – if there is any boat that is built to take these conditions, it's a Grady. The club was founded in 2007 by a group of Grady-White owners planning a journey in their boats to Ketchikan, Alaska. After this trip of a lifetime, the club continued to grow, holding numerous rendezvous and



Twenty-two boats and more than 50 people came together for the weekend of fishing and camaraderie.



It was great to welcome new members! They were presented with their club burgees and custom Buck file knives (from left) Aaron McAffrey; Maxx Rivas, Rick Moline and Kevin Donovan



Hundreds of pounds of delicious lingcod was caught over the weekend. Dan Miranda (left) took first place with a 16.7-pound fish, followed by Taylor Gore's (middle) hefty 15.2-pound fish, and Rob Powers (right) took third place with a 14.2-pound lingcod.

fishing expeditions throughout Washington and British Columbia, including a 700-mile circumnavigation of Vancouver Island – affectionately known as “Round the Rock.”

Now, one of the club’s most anticipated events is the annual Lingcod Derby in Roche Harbor, Washington – a quiet resort community on San Juan Island, about 80 miles northwest of Seattle and only accessible by boat or plane. I’m grateful to have joined the club for the weekend trip, with our photographer, Mark Collie, there to capture the adventure and unique beauty of the Pacific Northwest. We were treated to perfect weather Friday morning as we departed from Jacobsen’s Marine in Edmonds, Washington; prompting us to take our time on the three-hour journey to savor the beautiful scenery along the way, capture some photos, and enjoy lunch in La Conner.

It didn’t take long to see just why this sizeable group was passionate about owning Gradys. They fish – and they fish

hard. The beautiful weather Friday on our ride north gave way to misty rain and chilly winds Saturday afternoon into Sunday, stirring up the waters with it. Not a soul in the group was bothered by the weather, confidently navigating choppy waters between Roche Harbor and British Columbia with the peace of mind of the SeaV<sup>2</sup>® hull. Meanwhile, they laughed at me, the Southerner bundled up in layers of jackets, while many of them wandered about in shorts – a few even in flip flops. “You just have to have a Grady up here,” one club member told me. “With the conditions we have, nothing compares.” Walking up and down the docks for the tournament weigh-ins, there was a sense of camaraderie few could understand until you’ve experienced it. Across the 22 boats – from years-old 232s to brand new *Express 330s* – new and veteran club members razzed one another about the day’s catch, toured each other’s boats, and reminisced

about how far the club has come from its initial Alaska expedition.

We returned to the dealership on Sunday afternoon after making our way through rain, fog, and choppy waters – certainly a quintessential Pacific Northwest day made comfortable by the Grady. Don Ross – Tom’s father and one of the founding members of the club – was waiting for us when we arrived. Although he was unable to join the weekend’s festivities, it was a treat to hear his stories alongside his wife, Brenda, on their many years of Gradys and the thousands of miles and fishing trips their boats have withstood. I asked him what has kept him coming back to Grady-Whites for so long.

“It’s just the legacy,” he said. “All of these memories I’ve made through the years with my friends, children, and now grandchildren, Grady was a part of them.” As he said when we interviewed him for *Anchorline* years ago, “There are only two kinds of boats, a Grady-White and then all the others.”

## GRADY-WHITE CLUBS CREATE LASTING FRIENDSHIPS

# Club News

Grady-White Owner's Clubs are a great way to spend more time enjoying your boat! The Clubs are known for fostering terrific friendships, providing on the water training, discovering cool places to take your boat, encouraging longer voyages with confidence, and letting you check out other models you might want to trade up to. If you haven't joined a Grady-White Club yet, today is a great day to join! Or start one in your area!

Check out our Club page at [gradywhite.com/club-list/](http://gradywhite.com/club-list/)

Happy Boating!



**The Pamlico Grady-White Club**, sponsored by Park Boat Company, kicked off the boating season with a social gathering. Happy to be gearing up for a summer of adventure on their Grady-White boats, the group outlined the outings that will be offered this summer and fall.



Seven Grady-White boats and 17 people from the **Tampa Bay Grady-White Club**, sponsored by Quality Boats, traveled to Caladesi Island State Park, one of the most beautiful beaches in Florida. The weather was perfect, and some of the boats made the trip an overnighter, staying at the dock on the island. While there, the boats received complimentary vessel safety checks from the Coast Guard Auxiliary.



**The Gulfstream Grady Group**, sponsored by Mariner Marine, enjoyed beautiful weather on a recent picnic to Dubois Park in Jupiter, Florida.



**The Low Country Grady-White Club**, sponsored by The Boathouse Hilton Head, reunited at a recent meet and mingle. This club is excited about the coming year and adding new members to join in their activities.





**Naples Boat Mart** sponsored a Grady-White owners' trip to Hawks Cay Resort in the Florida Keys. Six boats were led to the resort by the Naples Boat Mart team on a *Freedom 375* for a weekend of fun and relaxation. A highlight of the trip was fishing on a customer's new *Canyon 336* and catching their first ever mahi. Other daytime activities included snorkeling and relaxing at the resort pool, and social hours were spent dockside on the new *Canyon 386*. It was a terrific trip!



**The Cape Lookout Grady-White Club**, sponsored by Radio Island Marina, traveled by boat to River Dunes in Oriental, North Carolina for a delightful weekend of fun and relaxation.



Grady-White boats moored at Hawks Cay Resort in the Florida Keys.



LISTENING TO CUSTOMERS IS KEY TO THE GRADY-WHITE PROCESS  
FOR PRODUCT DESIGN

# A Look into How Grady-White's Continuous Improvement Strategy Leads to New Models and Features

As we head into a new model year, we sat down with our product designer, Christian Carraway, to gain some deeper insight into the process the engineering team uses when concepting a new model, reimagining an existing model, or devising a new feature to add to the current lineup. Here's what he had to say.

Carraway begins, "It takes a lot of dedication to continuously achieve the highest customer satisfaction ratings in the industry."

He continues, "There are many things that drive product design at Grady-White but two are at the top. First and foremost are suggestions from our customers, and second is new technology. Combining ideas from our customers, our own team's

experiences, and technological advances, we are continuously improving all aspects of our boats. With each new model and feature design we are focusing on how to make the boats more comfortable, adaptable, automated, and easier to maintain and operate, and enjoy every time you take your boat out."

Carraway shared that the engineering team knows our customers appreciate the versatility Grady-White builds into each boat. It's not just a fishing boat that you can cruise on or a cruising boat you can fish from, but a boat that is exceptional at both. Through the years we've worked hard to blend our heritage of rugged toughness with elegant luxury – resulting in a boat that you can be

confident in when going offshore in the roughest weather but still relax in like you're at a resort.

Grady-White is constantly asking for feedback from our customers. It starts with the survey you receive after you buy your boat. But it doesn't stop there. We take time to talk with you and really listen when we see you at boat shows, during factory visits, when you talk to our customer relations team, during Grady-White Club events that we attend, and at the dock when we're out boating, too. We speak with our dealers often as they have the most frequent interaction with customers. They share what they see and hear at the dock and the dealership. When we review the feedback from these



The Grady-White engineering team.

sources, we learn what you like and want more of and what we can improve.

We stay up to date on the newest technology advances in the industry. What is the latest, greatest feature or device that will enhance your boating experience? Examples like Seakeeper® gyro stabilization, C-Zone® digital switching, and Yamaha's Helm Master™ EX.

With all this information, we sit down to review and determine how much we can blend into the boats while

maintaining our key pillars of the brand: exceptional hull performance, seaworthy safety, unsinkable foam flotation, true self-bailing cockpits, overboard draining live wells and fish boxes, etc. Then we get to work and start testing ideas. We want to be sure our new features work as designed and bring even greater satisfaction to our customers. As a result, when a new model is introduced or a new feature implemented, you can rest assured it has been evaluated and proven

long before it makes its way onto your boat. One way we do this is by being our own customers. Carraway adds, "Many of us own Grady-White boats. We fish inshore and offshore, cruise, enjoy watersports, and take both day and overnight trips. While we're having fun, we're also thinking about ways to make our boats even better for our customers."

You might be wondering what this all means for the approaching 2025 model year, so here are some things you'll see.



### Upholstery Enhancements

The addition of more lumbar pillows/rolls and diamond stitching will add even more luxurious comfort. While other boat manufacturers may focus on the helm area, they all too often forget about the other seating on the boat. Drawing from the luxury automotive sector, we're adding more sculpted foam and additional support to seating throughout the boat.

### Helm Updates

Today, boat captains want larger displays and more of them! So, we're systematically redesigning the helm areas to allow more room for the desired displays while also repositioning the electronic surface higher, making the displays easier to read and use. This also allows us to move the switch panel lower on the helm station so it is easier to reach.

Carraways concludes, "Above all, we want to say thank you for providing your feedback and helping us maintain our status as the absolute best in the industry. As we look to the future, we ask that you continue to challenge us to improve and trust us to answer the call."



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

## Grady Buddies



Andrew and Tina Walker's Grady buddy, **Chauncey**, likes to take in the sights and sounds of the water on their *Freedom 215* out of Long Island Sound.



**Annie** leaving Beacon's Reach Marina in Pine Knoll Shores, North Carolina, aboard Hank and Meredith Hinton's *281 Coastal Explorer*.



**Oakley** loves exploring Lake Ontario at sunset on Phil Pecora's *Fisherman 216* out of Rochester, New York.



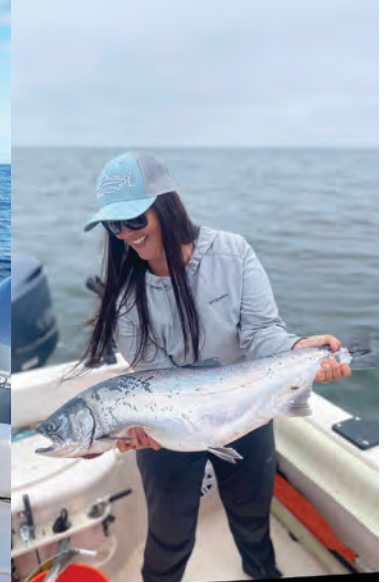
Charlie and Amy Haines' Grady buddies, **Kit, Paige, and Earl**, love boating on their *Adventure 208*.

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

## Letters & Photos



**Freddie and Lorraine Bello** captured this beautiful double rainbow on the way home from Culebra, Puerto Rico on their *Express 370, VelaBello*.



**Chris and Daniela Hopkins** fish the Pacific Ocean along the Oregon coast on their *Seafarer 228* for halibut, lingcod, salmon, and tuna. This was a successful trip!



**Ken Wright and friends** celebrate St. Patrick's Day on his *Marlin 300* in a green Chicago river.



Grady-White Boats, P.O. Box 1527  
 Greenville, NC 27835  
 252-752-2111 · www.gradywhite.com



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## Letters & Photos



**The Moulthrop family** enjoys the day cruising the Niantic Bay in Connecticut on their *Freedom 275*.



**Keith Hanson** catching cobia with friends and family on his *Chase 273*.



**In 2-to-3-foot waves on the Gulf of Mexico** with constant rain, everyone remained dry and comfortable on Mike Robinson's Grady-White *Freedom 307, Nauti Narc II*, catching a prized cobia and feeding neighbors and friends with a variety of other fish.

**Arnaldi Pastrana** in his *Marlin 300, LouMar*, anchored out for a day of fun in the beautiful waters of Puerto Rico.

