





Dear Grady Friends:

As we embark on a new year it's a good time to pause and reflect on 2024. We were busy, evidenced by the introduction of not one, but three exceptional new boats, a *231 Coastal Explorer*, a *Freedom 415*, and *Freedom 345*! Two of those models are fishing dual consoles, a leading product of our lineup and one that we pioneered in 1979 with the *Tarpon 190*. Since its introduction more than 40 years ago, we've continued to advance our dual console models not only by adding innovative features but also more offerings in a variety of size ranges. Today, with the addition of the *Freedom 415*, our dual console lineup spans from 21 to 41 feet.

Just as the *Tarpon 190* was a breakthrough model with its dual console fishing design, the *415* took center stage in February as the largest and most versatile outboard powered dual console boat on the market. Also making its debut in Miami was the *231 Coastal Explorer*. Filling a niche in our highly acclaimed Coastal Explorer series, the *231* delivered many of the amenities found on the *251*, and *281* in a 23-foot layout. Then right on the heels of introducing the *415*, we launched the *Freedom 345*, another stellar dual console with its own claim to fame – it perfectly combines the comfort and style of the *Freedom 415* with the rugged fishability of the *Canyon 456* to deliver the ultimate satisfaction in a slightly smaller package. Climb aboard and we're sure you'll agree that our designers and craftspeople have really over-delivered with these two new models.

One of the joys of meeting you at the boat shows is hearing about your adventures on the water. In this issue you'll meet two Grady owners who recently traversed the Great Loop. One, Jeff Rudisill, is a seasoned boat traveler and the other, Phil Sher, decided to do something new for the first time. Get both their perspectives of the adventure in this issue. Plus, learn about Grady-White's partnership with Yamaha Outboards and Siren Marine to add Siren 3 Pro to eight Grady models. We also hope you'll be inspired by our Grady-White clubs. If you're currently not a member of a club we'd love to help you find one or help you start one in your area.

We hope you'll come see us and our new boats at one of the many upcoming boat shows. We'll be there with new models and other customer favorites. You can also visit your dealer's show room – they'd love to show you the new models and help you pick the best boat for you!

2025 holds the promise of many happy fun-filled days with friends and family aboard your Grady-White boat and we look forward to seeing you on the water.

Happy New Year and happy boating!

Educ Smth, f.
Eddie Smith, Jr., Chairman, CEO

Kris Carroll, Preside

Don't wait until the next boat show to check out these great new Grady-White Boats! Use the QR code for each model to get all the details – photos, walk-through

videos, and the complete list of specs.







ON THE COVER

Steve Govel, of Short Marine/Rising Tide Film, contibuted a beautiful photo of a Grady-White *Canyon 386* at North Head in Sydney, Australia.

DREAMING OF EXPANDING YOUR BOATING ADVENTURES? THESE TWO GRADY OWNERS SAY IT'S EASIER THAN YOU THINK.

The Great Loop

There is no hard or fast rule on how a boater can approach the Great Loop, a 5,000 – 6,000-mile journey traveling through a series of waterways that circumnavigate the Eastern United States and part of Canada. This is evident in the varied approaches two Grady-White owners took in their completion of the trip. The 16-state excursion can be completed in as few as 30 days or over several years. Either way they receive their "Gold Burgee" and the title of "Gold Looper" upon completion.

Both of our Grady Loopers gained interest in the trip by happenstance. Jeff Rudisill, who has been featured in Anchorline for two other long cruises, never had an interest in the Loop until one day when he was studying a map. He





suddenly realized that through his past boating journeys he'd already completed a good portion of the Intracoastal Waterway. He had already traveled from the southern Chesapeake Bay in Virginia to Brownsville, Texas in his Grady-White Tournament 225. As he contemplated this, the adventurer in him thought, "If I've already completed more than 2,000 miles,

With a mantra of, "When was the last time you did something for the first time?" Phil Sher was led to the Loop by

why not finish?" So he did!

chance as well. During the Covid-19 pandemic, Phil read about the Great Loop and decided it was something he wanted to accomplish. When he shared his great idea with his wife, she replied, "You can do that as long as I don't have to go with you." Fortunately for Phil, he had a handful of friends and family members that joined him along the way. Breaking the trip up into five 10 to 14-day segments allowed him to return home and work between jaunts. Starting in the fall, he wintered the boat in Florida and finished in the spring, completing the Loop in 62 boating days.

The Great Loop has been completed in a variety of boats, the smallest being a kayak, and the largest 70 feet. When considering if their boats could handle the journey, there really were only three things to take into



account. First, the boat could not draw more than five feet. Second, it must be able to travel under a 19' 7" fixed bridge. Third, if the boat is powered by fuel, it must be able to carry enough to travel 215 miles without refueling. Fortunately for them, Jeff's new Grady-White, a *Freedom 235*, and Phil's *Marlin 300* both met all the criteria. Here's a little more about what made each journey special.

Phil Sher

Having made "doing something new for the first time" a significant focus of his life, Phil was energized at the prospect of planning his Loop journey. While he had been boating for 30 years, he'd only overnighted a few times, so he knew he'd need to do some strategizing for a trip of this significance. He started by getting the boat ready. "I already owned the Grady-White because it's a great boat for New England waters," Phil said. "The solid SeaV^{2®} hull had allowed me to run all over the place with my family, so I knew the boat was up to the challenge." Having lots of space to store whatever



Phil Sher passes the Gateway Arch in St. Louis, Missouri.

was needed for a trip of this magnitude, as well as a cuddy cabin with forward and aft berths for him and a friend to comfortably sleep at night, made the *Marlin* a perfect boat for the Loop. In addition to preparing the boat, Phil also spent time studying the unfamiliar waters he'd be traversing, joined the Loopers' official organization, America's Great Loop Cruisers Association (AGLCA), and read the Looper's Companion Guide.

Phil would complete his loop travels in segments, returning home to work between jaunts, so he also had to figure out the logistics of where he'd leave his boat to fly home periodically. Phil planned to begin the journey in the

summer, but due to Hurricane Henri flooding the canal in Lake Erie, he had to turn back. Getting a later start meant that he would have to take a slightly non-traditional approach to the Loop most boaters travel the Loop in a counterclockwise direction, allowing the boat to move with the current. To take advantage of better weather, he decided to take the loop clockwise. Although the weather was more favorable, fighting the current became a factor. This was particularly notable when he arrived in the Mississippi River in the spring with seven knot currents running against the boat. "Thankfully, the Grady-White is such a strong boat," Phil said, "it really didn't prove to be that much of an obstacle."

Phil recalls the adventure and happily says he made a lot of exciting memories. The most notable was a close call with a nuclear submarine. "We were cutting across the Long Island Sound and I could see this tower but couldn't figure out what it was," Phil said. "Then we saw bubbles in front and realized it was a submarine coming out of Connecticut – that brought us to a quick halt!" It seemed his big adventures involved the military, as Phil also recounted the experience of running through a naval gun range. "We were hailed on the radio and

Phil's Marlin 300 at the docks in Chicago.



Lady Liberty, in Upper New York Bay, makes for a majestic landmark along The Great Loop.

told to stop," Phil recalled. "After waiting about an hour, they said we could go but only gave us 45 minutes to get to the other side – then they were going to resume their training." From these experiences Phil's note to those considering the loop, or any boat trip that goes through or near military waters, is to "be aware and know the AM Radio channel that will tell you the operations schedule so you can plan accordingly."

Aside from staying on your toes while navigating, Phil also recalls the interesting elements and beauty of the adventure. Most notable were the different sights, from the marshes in North Carolina, the birds and other wildlife along the way, to the contrast of the little towns to the sights of the big cities, all topped off by beautiful sunsets. What surprised him were the many bridges in Chicago and the clean water in Lake Michigan. "You could see clearly all the way to the bottom," he said. And, for someone who had spent very few nights

on the boat prior to this trip, Phil also found something new he'd never realized about the beauty and uniqueness of boating saying, "I loved waking up on the water each day." While the trip was strenuous, the Grady performed flawlessly and provided the perfect set up. So, when was the last time you did something for the first time? If you've ever thought of taking a boat trip, Phil says, "Get your Grady and do it!"

Jeff Rudisill

Having already completed the southern portion of the loop, preparing for his final loop journey wasn't very difficult for Jeff. After ensuring his boat met all the requirements, he joined America's Great Loop Cruisers Association, which provided a wealth of information and resources. The AGLCA volunteers, called Harbor Hosts, who lend a hand to Loopers as they pass through their home ports, reassured Jeff there was nothing he would encounter that he hadn't already experienced before.

Taking the route into Canada, Jeff thought it could take as many as 70 days to travel from the Rappahannock River in Virginia to Alabama's Mobile Bay. With that in mind, he decided to begin the 3,200-mile journey in mid-June with plans to finish by the first of September. For overnighting, Jeff, who was traveling alone, fashioned his port electromechanically extendable seat into a bed, and each night he put up his boat's cockpit cover to act as a tent. While the weather was a bit



Jeff's Freedom 235 tied up at the Paducah, Kentucky city docks along the Ohio River.

cool in Canada this was a perfect set up. Along the way, he got good advice from other boaters. For example, when he arrived at Lake Ontario, a person at the dock suggested he pay attention to what the

fishermen do in the morning, noting "They only take people out when it's nice." The next morning, at 5:30 am he heard their engines fire up, so he prepared to leave as well – a decision that proved beneficial as he noted, "It was a perfect day."

There were only a few obtacles he had to tackle along the way. One was managing the boat alone through the more than 100 locks that dot the route. "You must keep your lines taut throughout the process and some locks require you to tie up your bow and stern," Jeff said. This was not a simple task for one person to manage but he learned that if he first tied up midship he could then secure the bow and stern with more control. Another was going across Lake Simcoe, a relatively small lake on the Trent-Severn waterway. "It was already rough when I headed out and then a storm came up," Jeff recalled.



The lockmaster at the Pickwick lock and dam on the Tennessee River took this picture of Jeff's *Freedom 235*.

"I knew my boat could handle it, and was never concerned for my safety, but it was intense for a couple of hours." The last challenge occurred in the Mississippi River as his journey was coming to a close. Tropical storm Beryl, downgraded from a hurricane, came roaring through. "I've never heard so much rain," Jeff said. That sent the Mississippi raging out of its banks and a lot of debris floating down the river. "In retrospect, I probably should have waited and left the next day," Jeff noted, as he went on to tell how a log got trapped between his boat and the engine. He knew there was a problem when the steering didn't react properly. Fortunately, it was a simple fix. Turning off the engine and raising it out of the water set the debris free. He learned from these challenges that Grady-White and Yamaha are a great package to get you to your destination safely.

What surprised Jeff the most during his trip was the amazing scenery he experienced both in the big cities as well as the rural areas. When he asked other Loopers what they thought was the best part of the trip, they all

said the area from the Chesapeake Bay to Chicago and he agreed! Having never traveled to New York City, he found it very exciting and enjoyed facetiming friends and family back home with the Statue of Liberty proudly standing in the background. Another revelation was that the water in Canada was as clear as the tropics. He also noted that he has been remiss in not spending more time close to home in the Chesapeake Bay, and he plans to do so this coming summer.

"You can't imagine the memories you make and the thrill you get from the many people you meet," Jeff says about his adventures.

"I'm so thankful to have lived a long and healthy life, and after working and raising a family, I get to enjoy these amazing adventures." Now, when he tells his children what his plans are they don't even blink an eye, because he is so experienced, they know he'll do well at whatever he tries. They're glad he gets to enjoy the adventure and know he'll be careful. Of course, it also helps to know that he's traveling on his trusty Grady-White!



GRADY-WHITE CREW STORIES

Hard Work Pays Off Personally and Professionally for this nearly 40-year Grady Veteran

Brenda Wilson, Grady-White Team Member and Boat Owner

"This is a great place to work – You should come over and apply!" was all the urging Brenda Wilson needed from her twin sister, Sandra Dennis. Shortly after, she took Sandra's advice and applied for a job at Grady-White Boats. Now, almost 40 years later, Brenda has come full circle in a rewarding career that has frequently crossed over into her personal life as well.

Starting in final finishing, Brenda quickly felt connected to her team. "I had not had that kind of connection with my previous work experiences," Brenda explained. "It's what struck me most when I started, and probably a key reason why I've been so

happy in my career here." Working in final finishing for a few years, Brenda was able to get a good understanding of all that goes into making a Grady-White boat such a great quality product that is loved by owners all over the world. It was that understanding, paired with her past experience in quality control at another manufacturing site, that made her a perfect fit for her next position in Grady-White's quality control department. From there she went to industrial engineering, purchasing, back to final finishing as a team leader, then becoming assembly supervisor, assembly manager, and production manager before

finding herself in new territory – human resources. This wasn't really all that new for Brenda, as her love for connecting with co-workers made her a perfect choice for the position. That production background was also invaluable in her human resources role because she was familiar with the jobs she was recruiting and hiring people to do. "One of my favorite things at Grady-White is the annual plant picnic," Brenda says. "I love to meet our employees' families – it helps me understand what they work so hard for. Plus, I think it is meaningful for them to get to see where their loved ones work and what they do every day."

GRADY-WHITE





Brenda's family connections at Grady-White go beyond her twin sister and brother-in-law who also worked at Grady-White when Brenda started. "This is where I met my husband," she exclaims with a smile – noting that "hard work does pay off!" Of course, a family that works hard should also play hard, and that's just what Brenda and her family love to do on their Grady-White boat. Both Brenda and her husband, Rob, grew up boating on the Pamlico and Roanoke rivers as well as the surrounding beaches. Plus, through the years Brenda had participated in a few fishing trips and social cruises with Grady team members.

When the Wilson family was ready for their first Grady-White, they chose a 191 Coastal Explorer. It was the perfect boat for her husband and son, Jonathan, to go out fishing. For Brenda, her daughter-in-law, Heather, and sister Sandra, they liked it equally for lunch trips to Bath or cruising along the Washington waterfront. As the time came for something a little larger, the men were thinking about a center console model, but with the arrival of their granddaughter, Avery, Brenda knew a dual console was the perfect choice, and she was

right! They purchased a Freedom 235 and appropriately named it Avery Shea. "The 235 is really my favorite Grady-White model," Brenda says. "It's perfect for any family because it's just right for any activity from fishing to tubing and everything in between Plus, the superior design, craftsmanship, and quality of a Grady-White makes it a safe boat. If we start off the day in calm waters and a chop builds in the afternoon, we're sure to have a nice ride home thanks to the SeaV^{2®} hull," Brenda notes. "It's also rewarding to know that my work is providing these same opportunities for other families to spend time together." Brenda says her heart is full and happy when her family is all together on the Grady enjoying the water and the time with each other while creating memories that last a lifetime.

When reflecting on family and her work,
Brenda is also proud of the contributions
Grady-White makes in the community. "One
of the things Grady-White was instrumental
in was building a state-of-the-art cancer
center in Greenville," Brenda notes. "That's
not only meaningful to all of the community
but also to my family and many others at the
factory who have benefitted from such a

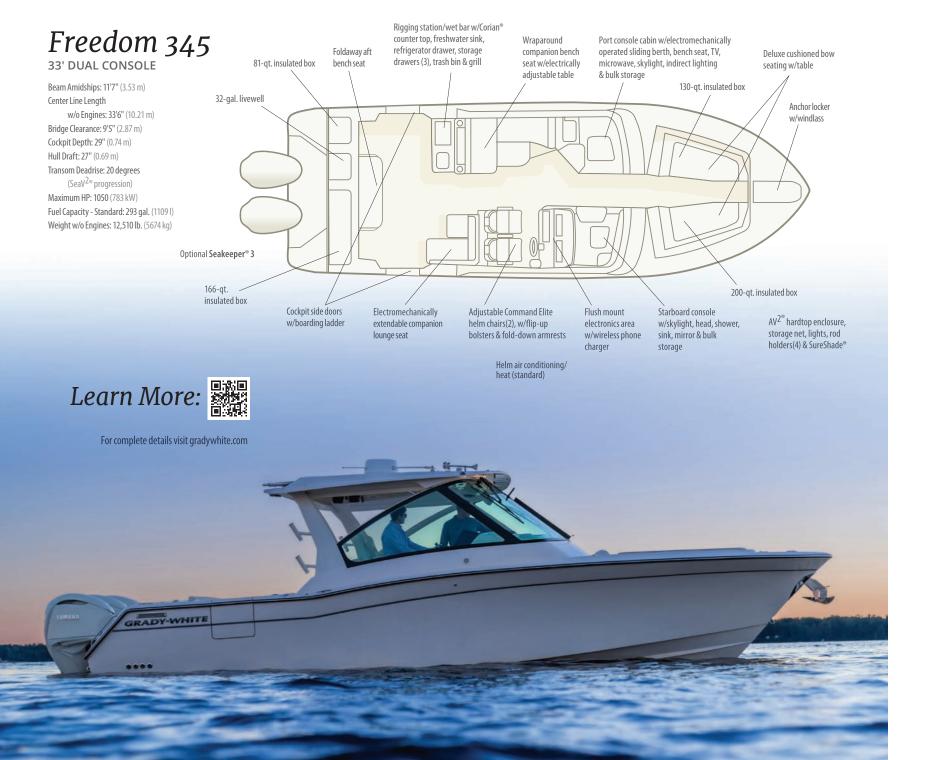
wonderful place to go for cancer treatment." Being a leader at Grady-White, she has seen many of her team members benefit from Grady-White's decades-long campaigns and donations that support the United Way and its impactful programs in the community. Brenda has also directly been involved in planning activities with the annual Visions program that is supported by Grady-White, working with the Pitt County Schools and Pitt County Community College to help at-risk youth succeed and graduate from high school.

Today at work, Brenda is enjoying the best of both worlds as she comes full circle in her new role as Director of Manufacturing and Human Resources. In that role she oversees all production operations as well as Human Resources. "I absolutely love production," Brenda says. "But I also enjoy the connections and impact I have made in people's careers and lives working in HR. Now, I get to do both! There's only one thing I like better, and that's hearing Avery and Codi, my great niece, say, 'Best day ever, Nanny' after spending the day on the boat." Now that's hard work paying off for sure!

THE NEW FREEDOM 345

Overflowing with Luxury Features

In a class all its own, the new *Freedom 345* combines the luxury of the Freedom 415 with the rugged fishability of the Canyon 456 wrapped into a slightly smaller package. Add to that Grady-White's brand pillars - award-winning SeaV 2 ® hull, exceptional attention to detail, and world-class customer satisfaction for the ultimate boating experience.



THREE WORLD-CLASS COMPANIES WORKING TOGETHER:

Grady-White Boats, Yamaha Outboards, and Siren Marine

For the 2025 model year, Grady-White Boats has partnered with Yamaha Outboards and Siren Marine® to add the Siren 3 Pro to our larger boat line (33 ft. and above). This includes 8 models: Canyon 336, Express 330, Freedom 345, Canyon 386, Express 370, Freedom 375, Freedom 415 and Canyon 456. This unit paired with Siren's industry leading Connected Boat® technology, gives you the ability to monitor your boat systems through your phone or connected watch. The Siren 3 Pro included on these Grady-White models come with four complimentary monitoring systems.

- Geo-locator: tells you the location of your boat
- Battery: monitors level of charge on your boat's batteries
- Maintenance Reminders: calculated from engine hours
- Siren Pro Internal Backup Battery: Backup battery inside the Siren 3 Pro allows you to track your vessel even if it gets disconnected from the boat battery.

With these models, Grady-White is **providing free activation** for the first year of ownership for these monitoring systems. There are instructions in the Grady-White Owner's Manual to allow you to download the Siren app. In addition to the Siren monitoring features, the app allows you to

access the Captain Grady® Information including your Yamaha Outboard and Grady-White Boat Owner's Manuals.*

How it works (from Yamaha's website): Customers can access information about their installed Siren 3 Pro device through the Siren Connected Boat mobile app. which combines real-time vessel security as well as multiple and flexible boat monitoring and tracking functions, giving customers the ability to control their boats from their phones or smart watches. The Siren 3 Pro supports up to 16 Siren wireless sensors. Wireless sensors can be used to monitor additional areas of your Grady-White, such as temperature, hatches opening, bilge activity, and high water levels. You can see the entire suite of sensors that are available here:

Siren 3 Pro can monitor up to two hard-wired batteries and works with most vessel and power types. Siren 3 Pro can connect to the NMEA 2000® network and the Yamaha
CommandLink® Plus network on DEC engines.

Andrew Cullen, Director, Marine
Connectivity, Yamaha U.S. Marine Business
Unit stated "With Siren 3 Pro, customers can
monitor, track, control, and maintain their
boats through the Siren Connected Boat app
- from anywhere and at any time. This is the
most comprehensive IoT solution available at
this price point in the marine industry."

There are additional sensors that can be connected by your dealership after market by purchasing and installing the sensors. You will need an active Siren Marine subscription to view the sensor data. *continued on back cover...*



GRADY-WHITE CLUBS CREATE LASTING FRIENDSHIPS

Club News

Grady-White Owners' 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/

Happy Boating!



The **Lake Erie Grady-White Club** hosted their fourth annual Youth Challenge Fishing Derby in Huron, Ohio. Ten youths matched up with ten Grady-White club members' boats and two alternate club boats. Once again, this year's event was a huge success thanks to the many wonderful members, guests, participants, and volunteers who helped, including Walleyes for Wounded Heroes, who supported many of the club boats, and South Shore Marine, who sponsored the Special Catch Awards.



The **Tarpon Coast Grady-White Club** hosted two great events in one day. The Grady Ladies participated in a "Suddenly in Command" class. This boating safety course was created for those not normally at the helm and taught attendees what to do in the event that the captain became incapacitated or unable to perform their duties. The Grady Guys participated in Grady maintenance. Kudos to Ingman Marine for sponsoring such a fun and informative club event.





The **Tampa Bay Grady-White Club** celebrated their annual holiday party at the St. Petersburg Yacht Club with delicious food, gifts, and merriment for all.



The **Gulfstream Grady Group** held their fall BBQ at Dubois Park in Jupiter, Florida. Members enjoyed delicious food, beautiful weather, and the great camaraderie of the club!



Tidewater Grady-White Club members David Wooleen and Sherry Potts graciously hosted a party at their home for club members to view the NAS Oceana Air Show which featured the Blue Angels. Luckily, their house is adjacent to the Navy's East Coast Master Jet Base in Virginia Beach, Virginia, and their dock and yard gave everyone the perfect vantage point for this spectacular show.



Atlantic Marine in Port Orange, Florida hosted their seventh annual Toys for Tots event with more than 350 attendees and several sponsors, including Grady-White. While there, Grady owners were introduced to the benefits of joining a Grady-White Club.



Grady Buddies



Maggie enjoys her first voyage aboard the Tenaglia's Freedom 275, Tenacity, out of Norwell, Massachusetts.



Fred and Loulie Sikes' dog, **Copper**, loved his first boat ride on their Freedom 275 in New Bern, North Carolina.



Rufus and Posy love to bird watch at Caswell Beach, North Carolina on John and Wendy Proctor's Freedom 255.



Cooper enjoys his boat rides with Arlee and Layton Campbell on their Fisherman 216 in Chincoteague, Virginia.



Bill Mcknight and "Scout" explore and fish the Chesapeake Bay near Deale, Maryland on Billfish, a Freedom 225.



Adlee loves to ride around the Magothy River in Pasadena, Maryland on Ken and Chrissy King's Freedom 275.



Josie loves to ride through Delaware Bay on Chip and Martha FitzGerald's Fisherman 209.

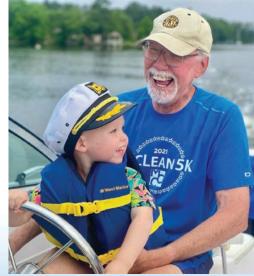


Grady Buddy **Boone** gets very excited when there is a fish on Terry Grainger's Fisherman 257 as they fish out of Charleston, South Carolina.

Letters & Photos



Steven Longbottom likes boating with his family on his Journey 258, along Lummi Island in Bellingham Bay, Washington.



Jim Lastowka and his grandson Henry are enjoying sharing the helm of Jim's *Tournament 192* on the Neuse River, near Oriental, North Carolina.



Connecticut, on his parents, Al and Kim's, Freedom 255. Zach is 12 years old and reads every issue of Anchorline front to back!





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Volume 44 No. 1

This is your newsletter. Please tell us what you want to see in *Anchorline*. Send us an email at anchorline@gradywhite.com

Grady-White Boats, Yamaha Outboards, and Siren Marine continued from interior...

Grady-White is providing customers one year free if the Siren 3 Pro is installed on your boat at the factory. Some of these additional monitoring services include:

- Bilge
- Connected Fluid Tanks
- Shore Power
- Temperature (cabin, etc.)
- · High Water
- Security/Entry

The advancing technology available today might be just the reason to consider a new Grady-White! Contact your local dealer to find out more about the Siren Connected Boat system or do some research on the websites below.

For additional information see these sources:





Download the app for free access to Yamaha outboard maintenance information and Grady-white resources.



*Must be connected to wifi/internet.