



Anchorline

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE GRADY LIFE





Dear Grady Friends:

Another boating season is upon us, and we couldn't be more excited! After a particularly crazy winter (the Florida panhandle even saw snow!) in North America, we know many of us are ready to shake off the cold weather and get on our Grady-White boats. So, where will your Grady take you this year? If you're not sure, getting involved with a Grady-White club is a great place to start. If you don't have a club in your area, you can start one yourself – we'll even help you! Clubs are a great way to learn more about boating, or if you're an old salt, you might take joy in helping bring along another generation of boaters by teaching them the ropes and showing them how to get to terrific destinations in your backyard and beyond. While you're enjoying your club adventures, remember to send us your stories and photos! You can share with us on Facebook or Instagram or upload your pictures via the QR code on the back of this newsletter.

We loved seeing you at the boat shows and hearing about the many ways you're embracing the Grady Life. You know that we are dedicated to our customers and especially to ensuring your total satisfaction with your boat. It's a top priority at Grady-White Boats—one we take very seriously. That's why we were particularly pleased to receive our 23rd consecutive National Marine Manufacturers Associations Customer Satisfaction (CSI) Award at the Miami International Boat Show in February. This award is derived from your responses to the satisfaction surveys you received after purchasing your boat. We've won this award every time it has ever been given, and it is a great source of pride for everyone on our team. Todd Leggett, Grady-White Director of Sales and Customer Relations summed it up best when he said, "This award is a true testament to the dedication of our entire team, from the people who work at the factory to the dealers that sell and service the products we produce, and it speaks to the work we do every day to ensure our customers are delighted with their boats." Thank you again for choosing a Grady-White boat and for honoring us with your responses that led to this award.

In the coming months, we're looking forward to spending many exceptional days on the water and can't wait for you to share photos and stories of your Grady Life with us. We also warmly invite you to visit us here in Greenville, North Carolina. So, if you're planning a visit to beautiful North Carolina, please schedule a tour with us to meet the dedicated craftspeople who help bring your boating dreams to life.

In the meantime, we hope you'll enjoy this issue of *Anchorline* and remember to keep those pictures and stories coming!

Happy Boating!

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Eddie Smith, Jr.".

Eddie Smith, Jr., Chairman, CEO

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kris Carroll".

Kris Carroll, President



ON THE COVER

Randy and Linda Brown enjoy making memories with the Gulfstream Grady-White Club especially on their trips to the Bahamas onboard their *Canyon 376, Fantastic III*.

Visit our YouTube channel, youtube.com/@gradywhiteofficial, to hear more about their Grady Life.

THE PEPPE FAMILY

A Heartwarming Legacy of Family, Fishing, and a Grady-White Boat

My grandparents have enjoyed life with a Grady-White boat for over 30 years. I wanted to surprise my grandma by sharing our story with our *Advance 257*.

On August 1, 2023, my grandfather, John Peppe, Sr., passed away suddenly from a heart attack at the age of 79. Our family's life revolves around the ocean, fishing, and boating. For decades, my grandfather and father spent their summers fishing in New York, but in 1989, my grandfather with my grandmother, Janet, made the life-changing move to Clearwater, Florida. Their new home on the Intracoastal meant one thing—they needed a boat. This move opened a fishing world my grandfather and father had only ever dreamed of.



John Peppe, Sr. shows off his catch!

Fishing and the ocean quickly became a family affair. My aunts also found their own connections to the water. The middle child, Janice, fell in love with spending days on the beach, watching the waves crash and the sun set. The youngest, Jennifer, grew up driving boats in the Intracoastal, fishing, and even meeting her now-husband just 12 houses down the canal from their new home.

My name is CJ Peppe. I am the oldest of my grandfather's six grandchildren, at 29 years old. I was lucky to spend a lot of time with my grandfather—much of it fishing. My fishing journey started as a one year old, casting a line off my grandparents' dock in Clearwater with my grandmother.

The Peppe family was blessed with grandparents who taught them how to fish.



She always had me release every fish, telling me, “We let them go so they can grow bigger.” I like to think she sparked my passion for conservation at an early age.

As I grew older, my grandmother became busy with a crew of hungry grandkids, and I started tagging along on fishing trips with my grandfather. His first Grady-White was a 22-foot boat named *Medically Necessary*. We spent our days catching trout on the flats, trolling for kingfish, and fishing offshore for grouper.

When I was five years old, my father bought a house on the water just north of Clearwater, giving me access to world-class fishing 24/7. Using what I learned from my dad and grandfather, I explored my new home waters. Later, my grandfather introduced me to the world of fly fishing, and we spent countless hours casting from his Grady-White, hoping to hook a trout or ladyfish. He was also the first person to



On his final offshore trip, John Peppe, Sr. had the hot hand and caught his limit.

take me on a travel fishing trip—a three-week adventure in Alaska, where we caught trout, halibut, and salmon.

Fast forward to July 4, 2023—a day I will never forget. It was my grandfather’s last fishing trip, and it could not have been more perfect. The plan was to head 55 miles offshore to target red snapper and grouper. Onboard were my grandfather, my father, my fiancé

Alex Spring, my sister’s fiancé Hunter Grant, and me. The weather was beautiful, the fishing was incredible, and I was surrounded by the people I love in the place I love most.

At 79 years old, my grandfather had the hot hand that day, he out-fished us all. He landed a 15-pound red snapper, his limit of red grouper, and plenty of other fish in between. Three generations of Peppe fishermen, doing what we do best. On the way back, something hit me—it felt like this could be one of his last trips. A 120-mile round trip and a 12-hour day? Not many almost 80-year-olds can do that.

Sadly, a month later, my grandfather passed away. He left behind his 2008 Grady-White *Advance 257*, *Medically Necessary II*. A few months later, my grandmother asked if I wanted to purchase the boat.

She truly wanted it to stay in the family.

Fortunately, my fiancé and I had just bought our



CJ Peppe and his fiancé, Alex Spring, continue their family legacy of fishing after purchasing and restoring his grandfather’s boat, an *Advance 257*.

own waterfront home, so we sold our bay boat and took on the task of restoring my grandfather's beloved vessel. We invested over \$20,000 into modernizing it, bringing it back to its original glory. Now equipped with radar, a trolling motor, night vision, and new Garmin electronics, *Medically Necessary II* is ready to fish the Gulf just as my grandfather envisioned when he moved here in 1989.

Now, I carry on his legacy, taking our family fishing. Thanks to my grandfather,

our entire family has the fishing bug. Whether it's Alex, Hunter, my cousins Mikey and Dylan Rolewski, or most importantly, my father, John Peppe Jr., you can count on *Medically Necessary II* heading out of the canal at sunrise with a boat full of family ready to fish.

Everyone in the family had a special connection with my grandfather—he was truly one of a kind. It's my hope that every time a family member or friend steps onto the boat, they think of that connection.

Not a trip goes by without a story about him being told or one of his famous sayings being murmured. His legacy will live on through this boat and the memories we continue to make on it. I want to thank my grandparents for everything they have done for me and the Peppe family. Thanks to you both, the Peppe name will always be tied to the waters of Tampa Bay, fishing for generations to come.



The entire Peppe family grew up fishing with their grandparents and enthusiastically continue the tradition today.



The Peppe Family's first Grady-White, a 2001 Fisherman 222 named *Medically Necessary*.

IS IT TIME FOR A CHANGE?

Life is short, make sure you have the perfect boat!

Talking with many customers over the years, there is a refrain we have heard many times: “Our lives have changed so many times. Luckily, we have always been able to find just the right Grady-White to meet our needs for each season of life!” If you think about it, when you purchased your first Grady-White, you probably thought, “This is the perfect boat– I’m going to keep it forever!” But then, your life changed. Maybe it was getting married, having kids, or grandkids–whatever it was, your boating needs may very well be different than they were when you purchased your last boat.

The really good news is that Grady-White makes five different types of boats–28 different models in all. Plus, Grady-White’s design team is constantly improving and updating across those models implementing the latest and greatest in technology, luxury, and comfort while still providing the same excellent performance, safety, and reliability you’ve come to appreciate. Most importantly, if you are ready to trade your boat in for a new one, Grady-White boats maintain higher resale value than our competitors because our exceptional attention to detail and solid craftsmanship makes them last. All of this eases the decision to get your next “perfect” Grady. So, how do you know if it’s the right time to move to a new model? Here are a few things to consider.



Freedom 345



Fisherman 216



Changes in Family Circumstances

A growing family may call for a boat that can seat more passengers. Or, if your children or grandchildren are getting older you may now be able to do more offshore fishing or venture farther away from home for all-day outings. Both situations make it beneficial to have a comfortable head compartment and other features like a sink, a refrigerator, and a grill. Also, as children get older, they typically want to bring along friends. A larger boat provides space to spread out – think kids in the bow while the adults congregate in the cockpit. All these scenarios are good reasons – but the best reason is to keep them engaged in boating with you, so you can spend as much time with them as possible. Are you entering the empty nest phase? You may want to downsize or upsize your boat. A smaller boat is easier to manage at the dock or if you trailer your boat, it may be easier to manage at the ramp alone or with just two people. Of course, this may also be a reason to purchase a larger boat. Let's say you're nearing retirement and are going to have more time for travel.

A cabin boat that's suitable for overnighting may be more suitable. Imagine adventures like a trip to the Bahamas or embarking on The Great Loop. You can join your local Grady-White Club on fun excursions, or start a Club in your area.

Going from a single to a couple or from a couple to a single: a change in your partner status is another common change that may affect your boating needs. Maybe you used to go out in your smaller center console alone and fish. Now you're married, and your partner wants to go too and bring other couples along for the ride! A mid-size dual console may be a better option for this season of life. Or vice versa if you're going from couple status to single status: a trailerable boat that will allow you to explore new places on your own may be more suitable.

Changes in How You Use Your Boat

Sometimes, what you want to DO on your boat changes. For example, you may have more time for offshore fishing. In this case, a larger center console might be the boat for you. However, if

you find you're spending more time at the local sandbar, a Coastal Explorer that's terrific for shallow waters may be in order. Of course, you can always keep your bigger Grady-White for offshore fishing and add the Coastal Explorer to your lineup of Gradys for those sandbar days. Whatever your preference in boating—we've got the Grady for you!

New Technology and Features

A top reason to trade your older model boat is for the new technology and features that have been introduced. From big items like Helm Master EX® and Seakeeper stabilizers, to smaller conveniences such as USB C charging ports and wireless phone

chargers, there are some excellent components available today. Designed for your added comfort and convenience, these items are sure to make your boating experience even better! Now that you've decided a new boat is in your future, go to Gradywhite.com to see the large variety of models available. Find the one that suits your new season of life and schedule a meeting with your dealer. They can talk to you about the value of your current boat and may even know of a potential buyer. Then climb aboard one of the new models in their showroom. With 28 models from 18 to 45 feet, we've got your next favorite Grady-White boat. You know the one that will leave you asking yourself, "Why didn't I do this sooner?"



Canyon 326

CRAIG & KAREN WEISMAN

From First Ride to Forever Adventures

“It’s unbelievable how this boat handles!” Craig Weisman said emphatically of the Grady-White *Freedom 307*. He and his wife Karen purchased the boat based solely on the quality reputation of the company. “We’d never been on a Grady-White until we took delivery of this boat,” he said. That day Craig asked the dealer to steer through the narrow channel into the open water before turning the helm over to him. From the moment they left

the dock Craig and Karen were in awe of how the boat handled and knew it was the one for them. Having a shallow water slip at their home, Craig has to make a 120° turn on plane to get into the channel. That first ride let him know the Grady could handle it perfectly without slinging his guests around.

Growing up fishing and water skiing on the lakes of Pennsylvania and having owned several other boat brands, Craig

and Karen were no strangers to boating. For years they vacationed in the Rehoboth Beach, Delaware area, and every time Craig drove by the Indian River Marina in Delaware where his dad used to keep his boat, he felt homesick. “I just longed to be back where so many of my memories were made,” Craig reminisced. When they were ready to purchase a second home on the water, location was a simple decision. Today,



Living close by in Pennsylvania, Craig and Karen's youngest son, Josh was able to join them for the first ride on their new *Freedom 307*!

their home is less than 3 miles by water from the Indian River Inlet and once again the Weismans are making great family memories on the surrounding waters – fishing, crabbing, clamming, cruising to waterfront restaurants, and spending the day at the local sandbar. “Our other boats didn’t come close to offering the comfort and features we enjoy on the Grady,” Karen said.

The versatility of the 307 and how easily it transitions from a fishing boat to a day-cruiser makes it just right for their lifestyle. Some of the features Craig and Karen think are key to their boating enjoyment include the head, the bow shade, and the dual use of the livewell and

fishbox in the transom which allows them to transition from a place for bait and the catch of the day when fishing to coolers for food when cruising. Plus, with plenty of seating, they can easily take 8 to 10 people out for a day of fun. The bow shade is a lifesaver in the hot sun, making the bow a great place to sit, relax, and enjoy the breeze. “It’s the perfect spot for a little charcuterie and beverages,” Karen said. “The boat is so comfortable, on the rare occasion the weather doesn’t cooperate, and we choose to stay at the dock, we still relax on the boat in our slip.”

The Weismans’ fond memories growing up on the water came full circle with their sons. Their oldest, Zach, and his wife,

Sadia, live in Chicago but make the trek each summer to spend time together on the boat. Their youngest, Josh and his girlfriend, Catherine, live in Pennsylvania, and when they visit, they bring their Grady buddy, Xander. Since purchasing the 307, the entire Weisman family, including Craig’s parents and Karen’s mother, have been making special memories. From grilling at the sandbar and watching fireworks to trekking out to the Canyons for some fishing, you’ll always find the Weismans on an adventure. Craig recalls a “crazy” trip where they netted almost 50 mahi mahi – nearly the legal limit – for family and friends to enjoy.



Xander loves being on the boat and looks forward to being joined by Oliver, another Weisman grand dog, this summer on their *Freedom 307, Reelyn*.



The Weisman men, Craig, Zach, and Josh.



Craig and Karen take advantage of a beautiful day to go boating.

While their boat was in production, Craig and Karen took the opportunity to visit the Grady-White factory. Their dealer, Taylor Marine, got the timing of their build and suggested that Craig and Karen travel to Greenville, North Carolina to tour the factory and sign their boat. “I guess you don’t know what you don’t



know,” Karen recalls. “It never occurred to us that we could go there, see the boat being built, and learn what goes into making a Grady-White.” Both were amazed at the exceptional attention to detail put into every boat. They were also impressed when they saw first-hand the structure of the boat. “That boat is SOLID,” Craig went on to suggest a tour to any future Grady-White owner. “It’s amazing to think how many boats have come out of that one factory,” Craig said. “In Delaware you hardly go anywhere that you don’t see a Grady-White. In marinas, on lifts, in driveways, and parking lots. They are everywhere!”

As the temperatures start to warm, the Weisman family is gearing up for the summer and experiencing a new kind of boating adventure. “We’re excited to pass along our love of boating to another generation of our family as we welcome our granddaughter into the world and start adding many new memories to our Grady Life.”



Whether fishing, clamming, crabbing, or cruising, the Weisman family loves spending time on the boat.
Pictured left to right: Karen, Sadia, Catherine, Josh, Craig, and Zach.



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 **Tidewater Grady-White Club** hosted their annual business meeting at Bull Island Brewing in Hampton, Virginia, with 45 members in attendance. It was a perfect way to kick off the season and make fun plans for the summer!



A hearty welcome to the newest Grady-White Club! **Atlantic Marine of Port Orange, Florida** is excited to introduce their newly formed club which recently held an inaugural meeting at the dealership. If you live in the area and are interested in joining the club, contact Greg Sanders at Atlantic Marine. (386) 788-1644.



What could be better than boating and eating? The **Emerald Coast Grady-White Club** out of Panama City Beach, Florida, started 2025 off with 11 people and 5 Grady-White boats traveling to Uncle Ernie's restaurant.



The **Gulf Stream Grady Group** held a picnic at Dubois Park in Jupiter, Florida. Everyone is looking forward to the Bahama Crossing this summer.



The **Lake Erie Club** met for the second year in Islamorada, Florida, with 14 members and 28 guests joining in the fun. Special visitors included Robert and Sue Branz who were on their honeymoon and Joe and Carol Miller, extended club members from the **Tidewater Club** who happened to be traveling through the area at the same time. From delicious food to a scavenger hunt, and pirate bingo, a large time was had by all!

HAVE AN INTERESTING STORY OR PHOTO?
EMAIL US AT ANCHORLINE@GRADYWHITE.COM OR UPLOAD IMAGES HERE:



Letters & Photos



Charlie Wu caught this 44" striped bass from his *Fisherman 216* at the Isle of Shoals in Maine.



Frank and Liane Marino had a wonderful Thanksgiving with family aboard their *Freedom 415*.



The Briggs family ready to enjoy a cruise around Maryland waters on their *Fisherman 257*.



Mike Adamson and his son Will reeled in a nice red grouper on their *Canyon 386*, caught off Marco Island in Naples, Florida.



Caleb Benson and family had an exciting day looking for whales and dolphin in the Bay of Fundy off Grand Manan Island, New Brunswick, Canada on their *Marlin 300*.



Frank Retacco stands proudly next to a bluefin tuna he caught off the coast of Montauk, New York on his *Canyon 326*.



Alex Patzer caught this chinook salmon in Vancouver, British Columbia aboard Ryan Patzer's *Adventure 218, Ready-Freddy*.



Willie, age 3 months, tries out the cabin of Stephen Sabo's *Gulfstream 232* while cruising the St. Lawrence River near Cape Vincent, New York. He seems to be a fan already.



Grady by his Grady. When Lindsey and Derek Abraham found out their third child was a boy, they named things they loved while brainstorming names. "After my husband said, 'Grady, like our boat, Grady-White', we knew that was the name for him. Now, as he grows up, he gets to share the fun story of how his name came to be."



Mike Donahue's granddaughter, Lucy Barnes, spent the 4th of July on his *Express 330*.



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Grady Buddies



Ryker loves to ride on Eric and Alex Berkowsky's *Freedom 235* on Barnegat Bay, New Jersey.



Randy and Maura Patterson, along with their Grady Buddy, **Sandy**, and friends gather for their annual Cape Cod boating day on their *Canyon 326, Capetime*.



Willow, Brett Grooms' Golden Retriever, enjoys cruising on their *Fisherman 257* out of Charleston, South Carolina.



Rick Morales and his family, including Grady Buddies, had a great family day cruising St. John's River, Florida on his *Freedom 325*.