



# Anchorline

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE GRADY LIFE







## Dear Grady Friends:

Fishing, cruising, sandbar hopping, water sports—whatever your favorite pastime, we hope you're living it to the fullest right now! Here in North Carolina the days are hot, and one of the best ways to beat the heat is to grab your family and friends and climb aboard your Grady-White boat. Recently, one of our customers said they weren't sure they'd ever loved something as much as they love their new Grady-White—but then they realized what they love most is the lifestyle they live on their Grady and the memories they are making. There is just nothing better than spending precious time with family and friends on your boat! These are the days to create those unforgettable moments, and we love that we get to be a part of you making them.

You may have heard that our Grady Days Sales Event has begun. With our best offers of the year, your dealer would love to talk with you about a new Grady-White. Whether upgrading to a new larger model with the latest innovations and technological advances, or adding a smaller model to your personal collection, it's a great time to buy!

We hope this issue of *Anchorline* will inspire you to join a club, cruise to a new destination, get involved with conservation, and enrich the lives of your children and grandchildren by introducing them to boating and fishing and preparing them to get their license for both.

We want to hear from you! Come see us and take a factory tour or meet us at club events and fishing tournaments—it's always great to learn about how you use your Grady-White boat, what features you appreciate the most, and continuously improve by listening to your ideas about what will make your time on your boat even more amazing.

Wishing you many happy days on the water—we can't wait to see what you've been doing!

*Eddie Smith, Jr.*

Eddie Smith, Jr., Chairman, CEO

*Kris Carroll*

Kris Carroll, President



### ON THE COVER

**The Great Georgian Bay Grady-White Club** traveled to Killarney Mountain Lodge for a weekend of fishing and fun. Grady-Whites from 21 to 38 feet made the trip that included a 17-boat raft-up in Baie Fine, a 10-mile fjord.

# GRADY DAYS SALES EVENT

*Exclusive Pricing*



*Freedom 415*



**GRADY-WHITE BOATS**

Exceptional attention to detail.

Limited Time  
Learn more:  
[gradywhite.com](http://gradywhite.com)





GRADY CREW

# Growing Up Grady

Maggie Smith is the youngest of Grady-White owner Eddie Smith's five grandchildren and just completed a summer internship in Grady-White's Marketing Department.

It doesn't matter if it's scorching hot or freezing cold in Bath, North Carolina. If Maggie Smith is there, she's going to go boating. Growing up as the granddaughter of Eddie Smith, a love for boating was naturally instilled in Maggie long before her first memory of being on a boat. Both her dad and granddad were instrumental in nurturing her love for all things boating—her granddad has always loved to fish, and her dad loved water sports. One of her fondest memories was celebrating her birthday at the river where she and a group of friends spent many days on the boat water skiing. “Dad was a great teacher,” Maggie said. “He would start out by having the person sit on the living room floor and hold the ski rope, then he'd pull them up simulating how the boat was going to pull them out of the water.” After practicing a few times on land, they'd get on the boat and do the same thing in the water. “It worked like a charm,” Maggie said.

While Maggie loved being in Bath with her friends, the most special memories came when her family were all there together. Her father, an accomplished water sportsman, taught them to ski and wakeboard—behind their Grady-White of course. Through these experiences, Maggie got an up-close and personal look at the versatility of a Grady-White boat. “They were as much fun to ski behind as



they were to take offshore fishing or just relax and spend time together as a family,” she said.

When she was 10 years old, she started attending Camp Seafarer, a month-long summer camp with a boating focus. It was there that her desire to hone her boating skills took hold. Being the youngest of five, there was always someone bigger than she was taking control of the boat. That summer when she got to camp, she realized this was her chance to become a proficient boater on her own. For the next few summers, she worked diligently to get the various boating ranks required to take

the boat license test. “At first it was hard to accept that I wasn't immediately great at doing all things boating. You'd think after spending all my life on a boat I'd instinctively know how to do it all,” Maggie said. Accepting that it was going to take time was not only a boating milestone for Maggie, but it taught her a life lesson—always just be yourself and it's ok to learn at your own pace.

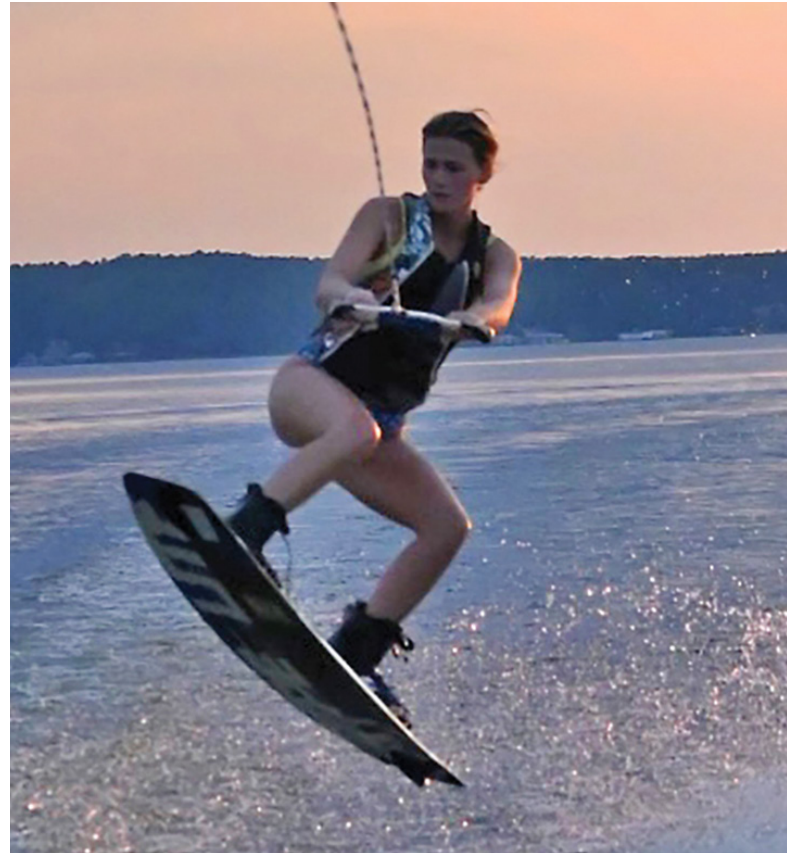
Not only was she required to achieve all the ranks, but the camp also required lots of hands-on experience, proving she could drive, dock, and even throw lines before she could take the test. “One summer when I returned from camp, I couldn't wait to show my dad how I could coil and throw the line from the boat as well as he could,” she said. His skill in that area had always impressed her as a child and it was a great moment for Maggie to impress him with her skills. Maggie also shared that there was a lot of discipline in learning to operate a boat, and learning to apply discipline to a task is something that she has carried with her beyond boating.

One summer at camp, a day long fishing excursion opened her eyes to something new—not all boats are created equal. On the way back, a storm blew up and the river turned rough. While they were always safe, Maggie was surprised to feel every single wave the boat hit—something she had never experienced when heading









back ahead of a storm on their Grady-White boats. “I guess that’s why most of the time when it gets rough you primarily only see Gradys still out on the water,” Maggie noted.

After successfully passing the camp boating test when she was 14 years old, Maggie had to come home and take the “Smith Boating Test.” “Cameron, a Captain who works with my grandad, is the person who always administers the family boat handling test,” Maggie said. “I had to drive the boat to Washington, about 20 minutes from our river house, dock, fill the boat up with gas, then drive back home,” she said. “Thankfully I passed with flying colors.” That proficiency with her boating skills is what led to her best surprise ever.

When the pandemic hit in 2020, Maggie moved to the river with her mom, dad, and brother. Being closer to

the Grady-White factory meant plenty of opportunities to see the boats being built. “One day at the plant, I saw a *Freedom 235* and I loved it!” Maggie said. “As soon as I got home, I told my dad I thought that boat would make a great boat for our family,” she recalls.

Sadly, Maggie’s dad, Chris, passed away of ALS in 2021, but unbeknownst to Maggie, her dad told her grandfather about her wish to have a *Freedom 235* for



the family. A few years later, the summer Maggie turned 16, her family made that wish come true. Her mom, Ann, loves to go on sunset cruises, so one evening they all boarded their *251 Coastal Explorer* and went to get ice cream. As they got closer to the dock, Maggie noticed a beautiful Carolina Blue 235 (Grady-White’s gel color Celestial Blue) at the dock. In hopes of restarting the conversation about a *Freedom 235* for their family, she said to her mom, “That’s the boat I told dad about!” Much to her surprise, Cameron appeared on the dock. At the same time, Maggie’s grandfather stepped onto the 235. Thinking this was odd, she asked, “Why are you getting on a stranger’s boat?” and he replied with a grin, “This isn’t a stranger’s boat—it’s yours!” At that moment, she heard her dad’s favorite song playing on the radio. It was immediately clear that he had put things in place for



Maggie and the family to get the 235. The rush of love she felt at that moment for all those that made her dream happen—starting with her father, to her mom, her grandfather, and Cameron was overwhelming. While the boat carries the name *Miss Maggie*, Maggie says it doesn't just belong to her, "It's our family boat and I love how we're continuing to make special family memories on her."

Today, her love of boating has not only sparked a passion for the things she enjoys doing on a boat, but also for the Grady-White family that has supported her efforts. An internship this summer in the Grady-White Marketing Department



has given her a special opportunity to work alongside the people that build Grady-White boats, and she's been impressed with their contagious work ethic. She notes that everyone is so

committed to their work as they strive to do their job and more. "It's really inspiring to me," she says. "Getting to work with the team here and strengthening my relationship with the people who have watched me grow up has been really rewarding." Maggie hopes that her work will inspire others to join the "Grady Life" and get their children and grandchildren involved in boating. "Having a knowledge of boating can teach you so much about responsibility and instill so much confidence in a person—it's certainly been a rewarding experience for me and one I hope to share with others."





TAG TEAM FOR CONSERVATION:

# Grady-White Staff Tags Mahi with the Dolphinfinch Research Program

To enjoy our natural resources, we must take care of them—that is what Grady-White Boats' owner, Eddie Smith, has always firmly believed. Grady-White Boats has been at the forefront of supporting conservation efforts for many decades. With a long heritage built on saltwater fishing, we are dedicated to supporting research and responsible management of fisheries to ensure that future generations can enjoy this pastime.

"If we don't do this work, the fish will not be there," says Wess Merten, director of the Dolphinfinch Research Program and the Beyond Our Shores Foundation, which Grady-White has supported since 2007. These programs specialize in catching, tagging, and releasing dolphinfinch (mahi mahi) to study their behavior and migratory patterns. For years, Grady-White has donated to the program to purchase

sophisticated satellite tags that self-release from the fish after a set time period and allow researchers to track location, depth, water temperature, and many other data points.

This year, Grady-White had the special opportunity to get in on the action by coordinating a fishing trip with Wess to deploy a tag we had funded. We created a "Tag Team" for dolphin tagging that involved some of our Grady-White staff.

"If you wait for the perfect day, you'll never go fishing!" said Jim Hardin, 45-year Grady-White team member. After months of planning, waves and wind were not going to deter Wess and the Grady-White team from their mission. On a rather "sporty" day in May, the group headed offshore for a dolphinfinch tagging expedition out of Morehead City, North Carolina aboard a Grady-White *Freedom 325*.

Placing a satellite tag on a fish is a bit more challenging than conventional tags (which rely on fishermen to manually report when the fish is caught). Satellite tags require a fish that is at least 36 inches, while conventional tags can be placed on fish as small as 12 inches. Fortunately, our team found success on this trip when they boated a 36-inch female that was suitable for the satellite tag. In addition to deploying the satellite tag, they also were able to place conventional tags on seven more dolphinfinch that ranged in size from 26 to 36 inches.

The female who received the satellite tag was tracked for three days and traveled east northeast for about 175 miles before the connection was lost. A bull dolphinfinch that was tagged the next day out of Hatteras was tracked for nine days and traveled in roughly the same direction for about 600 miles.







“Our hope is that these tagging efforts will confirm our theories that the dolphinfish have an annual circuit,” Wess said. “We know they travel from the Caribbean Sea along the Gulf Stream to the waters off the North Carolina Outer Banks. What we are not sure about is if these same fish continue their travel up to the Mid-Atlantic Bight and then return south along a similar path back through North Carolina to the Caribbean.”

Gaining this valuable information will go a long way toward understanding population decline and help determine the most successful way to manage the stock for future generations. The migration of these fish and others will help corroborate the theory. Wess notes that if it can be proven that the fish migrate from the Caribbean up to the Mid-Atlantic Bight and then travel back to the Caribbean, they can use that data to encourage those fishing the species to throw the smaller fish back and give them a chance both to reproduce and grow bigger. Then, when they return to the area on their annual migratory track, they’ll be ready for the fish box.

Grady-White is proud to support this research and other programs like it that help us understand more about the fisheries and help preserve them for future generations. Resources listed below can help you learn more if you are interested in getting involved.

1. Request a tagging kit and start a tag and release program on your boat.
2. Be on the lookout for conventional tags when fishing. If you catch a fish with a tag, report it to the Dolphinfish Research Program. They’ll need to know the date caught, tag serial number, and the coordinates of where the fish was caught.
3. Make a donation to the Beyond Our Shores Foundation Dolphinfish Tagging Program.



Request a Free Kit



Report a Recapture



Make a Donation



Watch a Documentary Video  
of the Recent Tagging Expedition:





# The Southern Loop – A Learning Adventure

KELLEY & RUSTY ANDERSON, TARPON COAST GRADY-WHITE CLUB MEMBERS

In early April, a fleet of three boats from the Tarpon Coast Grady-White Club embarked on a seven-day voyage—setting sail from Charlotte Harbor on the Gulf side of Florida. The route took us along the Caloosahatchee River to Lake Okeechobee and Stuart, then along the Atlantic side to Fort Lauderdale, down to the Keys, then back to Charlotte Harbor; under the tutelage of Fred Granger, an associate from Ingman Marine. For me and my husband, Rusty, who are new to Florida, it was an adventure like no other! Led by our fearless leader, Fred, we learned more about boating in Florida (and about our new Grady-White boat) in those seven days than we would've ever learned in years of day-long boat trips on our own.



If you're looking for a boating adventure with a variety of experiences, the Southern Loop trip is for you! We encountered locks in the river, navigated the Intracoastal

Waterway, cruised along the southern Atlantic coast of Florida, ran through the beautiful turquoise waters of the Florida Keys, and made our way back across Florida Bay. Though the waters were rough at times, our new *281 Coastal Explorer* handled it all with ease! Stops along the way included the Roland Martin Marina on Lake Okeechobee, Pirates Cove Resort & Marina in Stuart, Bahia Mar Fort Lauderdale Beach, and Faro Blanco Resort in Marathon. Each place offered a unique experience, adding to the specialness of the trip. A shoutout and thank you to those leaders in our boat club who make all the plans and arrangements—all we had to do was make our reservations and load the boat. We definitely would do it again...in a heartbeat!





# Suncoast Grady-White Club Sets Course for Paradise - A Voyage to the Exumas

MARY ROBINSON, SUNCOAST GRADY-WHITE CLUB MEMBER

One Grady-White Owners' Club + five boats + one dream destination = priceless memories! In the heart of summer, the Suncoast Grady-White Club, sponsored by Cannons Marina, embarked on an unforgettable journey—one that would take its members across 1200 nautical miles of sapphire seas to the world-renowned Exuma Cays in the Bahamas.

The fleet consisted of five vessels each carrying passengers with a shared sense of adventure. *SeaNick Route* with its seasoned crew took on the role of lead boat and pace setter, charting the course.

The voyage meticulously planned over six months was blessed with fair winds,

somewhat calm seas, and divine luck—no issues, flawless electronics, and not a storm in sight. From the moment the boats slipped their lines on Florida's Suncoast to their final approach into the crystal clear waters of Staniel Cay, everything went according to plan.

The group explored the best the Exumas have to offer, including swimming pigs in Big Major Cay, snorkeling through Thunderball Grotto, lazy days on sandbars that vanish with the tide, snorkeling over a famous wreck, nightly poolside cocktail parties and impromptu raft ups, and nightly dinners where tales grew taller and the rum flowed freely.

More than a voyage, this was a celebration of boating, friendships, love of adventure, and the boundless beauty of the Bahamian Out Islands. The Suncoast Grady-White Club proved once again that when you mix passionate boaters, reliable vessels, and a destination as dazzling as the Exumas you don't just take a trip—you make memories that last a lifetime.

As the last sunset dipped behind the horizon, the crews of *Nauti Narc II*, *SeaNick Route*, *Captain's Freedom*, *Alexis Blue*, and *MacDaddy* raised their glasses—not to goodbye, but until the next boating adventure.





## 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/](http://gradywhite.com/club-list/) Happy Boating!



The **Northwest Grady-White Club**, sponsored by Jacobsens Marine, hosted their annual Roche Harbor trip. It was a great weekend with tight lines and lots of great camaraderie.



On a sunny, blustery day, with small craft warnings in the Pungo River, the **Pamlico Grady-White Club**, sponsored by Park Boat Company, met in Belhaven for brunch. Several members braved the waves, which were no match for their Gradys, and traveled by boat.



The **Gulfstream Grady Group** met for an awesome lunch at the Waterway Café in Jupiter, Florida.



The **Cape Lookout Grady-White Club** had a great watch party for the Big Rock Blue Marlin Tournament in Morehead City, North Carolina! Sponsored by Radio Island Marina, 55 members attended and had great fun cheering on the tournament participants.



Ten boats and 54 people from the **South Florida Grady-White Club**, sponsored by Pompano Beach Marine Center, enjoyed another great trip to Abaco, Bahamas.





The **Cape Fear Grady-White Club**, sponsored by Atlantic Marine, has taken several trips recently. They led 23 boats and 72 club members and their guests to Bald Head Island for lunch. While there for the day, the group rented golf carts to explore the island before returning to Wilmington, North Carolina in the afternoon. A few weeks later 16 boats left Wilmington for their annual Charleston, South Carolina trip. This multi stop journey included a night each in Georgetown, Charleston, and Myrtle Beach. Those who made the trip said it was a great way to learn more about their boat, make new friends, and see new places from their Grady-White boat.



The **Lake Erie Grady-White Club** concluded their Spring Walleye Tournaments with their annual Walleye Awards Party held at club sponsor, South Shore Marine. Walleye winners were recognized and retirees realized they need to step it up as the younger members seemed to be the ones that finished in the money this year.

Forty-five members of the **Tidewater Grady-White Club**, sponsored by Norfolk Marine, traveled down the James River for an overnight stay at Smithfield Station. This annual trip is a highlight for the club.



The **Great Georgian Bay Grady-White Club** and sponsor Desmasdons Boatworks traveled to Killarney Mountain Lodge, Ontario with 17 boats and 50 people. A raft-up in Baie Fine, a 10-mile fjord, followed by a fish fry, raffle, and gifts were just some of the trip's highlights. The raffle was a new component of the trip and raised \$2,500 for a local health center.



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



## Letters & Photos



**Joe LeBlanc** on his *191 CE* with his catch and release Bull Redfish off the coast of Cocodrie, Louisiana.



**The Morales family** enjoyed a magnificent day of cruising around Jacksonville, Florida on the St. John's River to the Outback Crab Shack on Rick Morales' *Freedom 325, Cuban Time*.



**Lincoln Thompson** says he, "Loves Grady-White Boats!" and enjoys cruising and fishing out of Naples, Florida on his *Freedom 307*.



**Jack Murnane** won the spring King Mackerel tournament, sponsored by the Suncoast Grady Club and Tampa Bay Grady Club, on his *Express 330*. Congrats!





**Len Blanton** likes fishing and relaxing in Florida on his *Canyon 456*.



**Andy Beal** and his daughter, who has her Jr. Captain's License, say they catch more crabs than fish on Andy's *Fisherman 180* around Mill Creek, Maryland.



**Mike and Lori Bloom's 8 year old granddaughter, Kaia**, loves to go boating around Boca Raton, Florida on their *Freedom 335* and drew this photo of the boat for them.



**The Mummau family** down in Marathon, Florida enjoying a day of fishing and fun on their *Canyon 336*!



**Tom Mack and his son, Daniel**, show off their catch and release, of a small Goliath Grouper in Islamorada, Florida on their *Freedom 307*.



**Thanks to Marisol Díaz Rosario** for sharing this great picture of "*Pielago*," a *Canyon 336* they use for fishing waters north of San Juan, Puerto Rico.





Grady-White Boats, P.O. Box 1527  
Greenville, NC 27835  
252-752-2111 • [www.gradywhite.com](http://www.gradywhite.com)



Volume 44 No. 3



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

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



## Grady Buddies



**Minnie** on her first ever boat ride on "Grandpop" Neil Dougherty's *Fisherman 216* on New Jersey's Barnegat Bay.



John and Margarita Lucka's dog, **Lucky**, enjoying the breeze and fresh air on their *Fisherman 257* out of Fort Lauderdale, Florida.



**Carson** enjoying the breeze on Justin Friedland's *Freedom 205* named "pra-dz".



Scott Wilkie's Grady Buddy, **Fin**, looks forward to many adventures on their *Freedom 307*.