



April 1, 2009

Editor: Fred Buchas



# Grady Fest Edition

A Word From The Commodore - Dan Clark



Well, it's over. Grady Fest 2009 is history.

First of all, I want to thank our entire Club for your support and help in pulling this exciting event off. It's been almost a year and a half since we first starting talking about our Club trying to host an event that would bring Grady owners from all around the state together for a day of fun and socializing. During that time you have put up with my endless talking about Grady Fest and I appreciate it. I was really proud of our Club on Saturday. It was gratifying to have members of other clubs compliment us on what a great group of folks we have and that they were awed that our Club could pull such an event off.



We had close to 300 Grady owners in attendance and I have heard from most of the exhibitors. They were very pleased with the business that they did on Saturday. I had many comments on how impressed our out of town visitors were with the Event Center, the hotels and Laishley Marina. Makes you feel good to show off our town. Kris Carroll said that they wish they could have all of their national events right here.



I hope you all enjoyed the social at the Marina. That was a terrific gathering and a great opportunity to make new Grady friends. I estimated that there were over 150 owners there.

Our goal from the start was to break even with Fest from a financial standpoint. Thru the generosity of the many supporters and contributors, we were able to raise approx. \$2,000 for the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Fund. We will be making that donation on behalf of the Grady-White owners of Florida.



So, that's it. Fest is over. I tried to get another club to sponsor Fest 2010 and so far all I have is "we could never do anything like this". I'll keep trying!

Thanks again to everyone!!

News From The Secretary - Cher Clark

**Happy Spring to everyone!**

It looks like we'll be busy with all the wonderful trips planned by our Fleet Captains!



Our next Tarpon Coast Meeting will be Wednesday, April 15th at the new Madison's Restaurant in the Town Center Mall, (where Sam Seltzers used to be). The Board will meet at 6pm and the Club meeting will start at 6:30pm. We will give them a try, and then plan our May 20th and June 17th meetings after testing their food and service. We are working on a guest speaker that I'm sure you will enjoy.

Please RSVP to [cheranddan@comcast.net](mailto:cheranddan@comcast.net) by April 10 if you plan to attend!

If anyone has a suggestion for a good restaurant with a separate meeting room, please let me know. The club suspends our July and August meetings, resuming again on Sept. 16th.

We have been growing with new members! Be sure to introduce yourselves to all the new faces out there. To Our New Members...you'll love this club and thank you for joining!

We want to **SINCERELY THANK** all of you who volunteered your time and talents at Grady Fest! Some of our members went above and beyond the "call of duty", **Mega Thanks!** Many of you jumped in to help at the last minute. We are blessed and have become a "family that sticks together".

Our Club Presenters were a hit! We know you worked very hard and it really showed! The Grady-White Execs were very impressed by what our little Club was able to pull off.

**Our Club is the best!** We sure know how to pitch in, to help, cruise, party, eat and have a Fest!

We've had some great events and cruises. The Anniversary Gala (Thanks Linda & Frank for arranging the IslesYC and our wonderful menu!), Lunch Cruises to the Waterside Grill on Gasparilla and Cabbage Key (45 attended!) ....and **Grady Fest**....to name a few.

If you have any "news", new potential members or club dinner ideas, be sure to contact me! [cheranddan@comcast.net](mailto:cheranddan@comcast.net) 941-347-8086

Hope to see you all at the future events and cruises!

## An Update From Your Fleet Captains - Steve &amp; Diann Saunders



Hello Everyone:

Well here it is April already and along with Spring comes the hot weather, which chases our snowbirds up North to cool off a bit. We are sad that you have to leave us and you all will be truly missed at our upcoming Club events, but that is why we have such a great website to keep us all in touch and not miss out on what is going on in our active Club.

Speaking of active....the first three months of the year have come and gone. In January, some of us participated in a Boat Show at the Charlotte County Fair Grounds where we set up a Club tent and did a lot of PR for the Grady Fest. In February, we caught up with the Fort Myers Fish Tale Grady White Club and did a raft-up luncheon at Cayo Costa, which was a lot of fun. Also, on another trip in February, we visited the new Waterside Grill at Gasparilla Marina for lunch and to our good fortune, it was another beautiful day in paradise. Last month, we visited Cabbage Key for lunch and had a record number of members turn out - close to 45!! And, the finale to March was the best --- GRADY FEST!!! To many of us it was a huge success that proved to be beyond our expectations and then some. What started out to be just a thought by Dan and Cher about a year or so ago, and then presented to our Club members at a Board Dinner Meeting, turned into an event that will be hard to top and something that will be remembered for a long time. We are all hoping that it will become an event that other Florida boat clubs will want to do and continue a tradition that we are proud to say our Club started and made history doing so.

And now...for the next quarter of the year....we are off and running again. April for us brings a trip to Roland Martin's in Lake Okeechobee where some will be coming via boat and some will be coming via land. It will be a weekend of relaxation, good weather, food, drink and an airboat ride and perhaps even some fishing in Lake Okeechobee. Later in the month, we are scheduled for a luncheon at the White Elephant in Englewood, which now has been worked into a long weekend for some by rafting up near Cayo Costa and Boca Grande under the stars. Then in May, we have scheduled a luncheon at RumRunners in Fort Myers, a long weekend at the Hyatt in Sarasota via boat and a picnic at Don Pedro State Park.....

So...you can see...we will be busy until the summer just in time for our June trips to Marathon in the beginning of the month and Key West at the end of the month. After that...who knows what other ideas we will come up with. So stay tune and hopefully we will all catch up along the way.

Your Fleet Captains,  
Diann & Steve Saunders

### Our Vice Commodore - Burt Walburg



Truly Awesome, Unbelievable and a whole host of other words cannot begin to describe this past weekend. Through the dedicated efforts of Dan and Cher Clark our club put on an extraordinary event which seemed to receive rave reviews from the other Clubs and individuals attending. I even believe the folks at Grady were awe inspired by what the Tarpon Coast Grady White Club was able to put together. One of Dan's opening remarks was that he hoped that this would become an annual event with different Clubs taking their turn, well, let me say that our Club has raised the bar to a level which will be hard to improve upon.

Our "socially acceptable", slightly late arrival to the Event Center found us in the a scurry of activity with club members at the ready to assist all the vendors with their booth set-up, and helping get the last minute preparations ready for the day. What at first appeared to be mass confusion was in fact a very orchestrated, orderly and systematic undertaking. Our Club Members were not only able to handle the duties originally called out, but happily went above and beyond the call of duty.

The icing on the cake was today's email from Dan Clark stating that our Club had raised over \$2,000.00 for breast cancer research. Again, Dan and Cher are truly to be commended for their last years work in assuring the success of the past week-ends events, along with the hard work and true dedication of our Club members. Our Clubs leadership under Dan is something which others could wish to achieve.

Hopefully the next couple of months will allow for a little more cruising and for some the experienced fishing members some time to finally make a run offshore. We look forward to the upcoming trips especially our annual trip to the Keys.

**Burton L. Wahlburg**

### The Safety Scene - Fred Buchas

The following articles on anchoring and VHF radios were submitted by Doug Cox



## Short Scope Anchoring

Many of the established tomes on seamanship and boat handling routinely recommend scopes ranging from 5:1 to 7:1, depending on the author. That means if you're planning to anchor in 20 feet of water, you should have a minimum of 100 feet of rode deployed. Well, if you're like me, you're probably mumbling "Good luck with that." You've probably been to a few popular anchorages lately. The crowded ones can force you to anchor with much less scope than is deemed sufficient by the experts. What should you do in this situation? Here are three tried and proven techniques that have worked for me in the past.

1. Increase your chain lead. The longer and heavier the chain, the better your boat will hold, regardless of the bottom.

2. Bend your second anchor to the rode 15 or 20 feet above the primary hook. This serves two purposes. First, it adds weight to the rode, which increases the holding power. It also makes for a second, in-line anchor.

3. Decrease the angle of the rode along the bottom. The more parallel the rode is with the bottom, the better the holding power. If your boat has a towing eye or a stem fitting, after setting the hook, attach an additional line to that fitting, then bend or attach that line to the rode forward of the stem. By easing out the anchor line, the strain will be transferred via the new line to the lower fitting, thus decreasing the rode/bottom angle. Of course, safe and proper anchoring requires the captain to deploy the recommended amount of scope. Any short-scope technique is always a poor substitute, but whenever it's practiced, an ongoing anchor watch must be instituted.

From [www.motorboating.com](http://www.motorboating.com)

## VHF RADIO USAGE IN CASE OF EMERGENCY

An emergency call is addressed to any and all stations (other radios) within your transmitting range.

Channel 16 is the Emergency Broadcast Channel. When an emergency transmission is made, all other radio traffic should cease *immediately!*

There are three levels of emergency calls;

**First Level Emergency:** The "distress" signal is "MAYDAY". This word should be said

three (3) times: "

MAYDAY - MAYDAY - MAYDAY!". This signal is to be used *only* when there is grave danger to your crew or your boat.

**Second Level Emergency:** The "urgency" signal is "Pan-Pan" (pronounced "*pon-pon*"). This should be

stated three (3) times: "PAN-PAN - PAN-PAN - PAN-PAN!". This Signal should be used when you have a serious, but not life threatening, situation that requires assistance. Examples are serious illness or injury to a crew member, or if the captain himself becomes incapacitated. Running out of gas is *not* a Pan-Pan situation, unless you are in danger of being swept ashore in high seas.

**Third Level Emergency:** The "safety" signal is "Security" (pronounced as "*SAY-CURE-IT-TAY*"). This word should also be said three (3) times: "SECURITY - SECURITY - SECURITY!". This signal should be used to warn of conditions that may affect boaters in that area. Some examples are storm warnings, hazards to navigation (such as a huge log or other objects that could damage a boat) or alerts from large ships when they are going to be in a narrow channel. Meanwhile as you are calling for help, the rest of the crew should be doing whatever they can do to attract attention for help - signaling with distress flags, flares, orange smoke, waving both arms up and down at their sides, etc. This is the information that an emergency rescue service needs from you when you are calling in a MAYDAY:

1. Your vessel's name, repeated 3 times.
2. The position of your boat! The importance of knowing where you are at all times can't be overemphasized. Keep track of the course you are steering, how much time has passed since you left your departure point and your speed. If you have a GPS, use its latitude & longitude coordinates. If you don't know how to do any of these things, get a book or take a boating class as soon as possible. Remember no one can help you if they don't know where you are.
3. The nature of your problem.
4. The number of persons on board and if there are any injuries.
5. A description of your boat, meaning its size, color, type of design, manufacturer, etc. The description of your boat and its location are the only means that the Coast Guard has of locating you at the present time.

The following safety related information was submitted by Frank Muller:

### **Boaters Update - South Seas Plantation Channel Closure**

The channel markers for South Seas Plantation have been removed. The channel will no longer be dredged. Upon arrival at Marker #39, follow the Red and Green cans. Use

channel 16 then move to channel 68.

If you have any questions, call the Harbor Master at South Seas Plantation: 888-777-3625.

Thanks again guys for the contribuitions.

Fred Buchas

### A Report From The Treasurer



We have 57 dues paying boats so far this year, with a couple more potential memberships in the works.

### From Our Web Master



#### NEW WEB SITE 'LOOK AND FEEL'

In the next few weeks there will be a release of a new version of our Web site. NOTE: you will not need to make any changes to your saved links or passwords!!!

We felt that as our club has grown and thrived we should upgrade our Web site as well. While the web site will look a little different, it will contain all the information as the current site.

The difference is the site will be more organized with easier navigation between pages. That will be accomplished using a dropdown menu at the top of each page.

Because the new version of our Web site uses an improved approach (cascading style

sheets (CSS) for the nerds out there) updates and improvements will be easier to do.

For example, the drop-down menu was much easier to implement. The liquid effect in the top graphics is another neat feature.

More importantly, the overall format of the site will be uniform.

If you are curious please feel free to check out a demo page at <http://tarponcoastgwbc.com/cindex.html>

Clicking on the links will bring you to the current pages on our web site until the full cutover occurs.

The organizational changes I referred to above are as follows:

The current HOME page will be divided into:

- Home
- What's new
- Web site tutorial

The TRIP PLANS page will now be split into

- Trip plans
- Trip photos

The LINKS page will now be split into

- Useful sites
- Recipes
- Photo gallery

The NEWSLETTERS page will be divided into

- Latest
- Archive

Also, there will be a separate CONTACT US page with information and forms for prospective new members or any other interested party.

I hope you like the new format and find the changes an improvement.

Dan Eisenberg

Web Master

## Other Items & Member News

### Venice Christmas Boat Parade

I've been sent some information concerning this holiday event. Since some of our members are near the Venice area perhaps there will be some interest in participating or at least attending.

The following link will provide complete information:

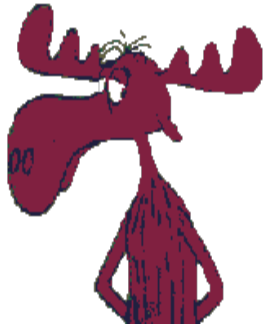
<http://www.venicechristmasboatparade.com/>

### From The Editor

As I'm sure you've noticed the newsletter has taken on a new look and feel this edition. I continue to make design and content changes and hopefully improvements. It is possible that some of the new design features such as the sliding "accordion menus" may not function properly in all browsers. They will not function if you have elected to turn off "javascript" in your browser preferences.

I welcome any feedback either positive or negative concerning the new design.

Thanks to Doug Cox and Frank Muller for their safety related newsletter contributions in this edition and as always thanks to our regular contributors.



I'll continue to look for member contributions. It could be almost anything that would be of interest to the membership. It could include your personal fishing or cruising stories or just information about hot fishing spots, dining or cruising destinations etc. Another suggestion has been to post club members marine items for sale.

Fred Buchas [fbuchas1@comcast.net](mailto:fbuchas1@comcast.net)

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