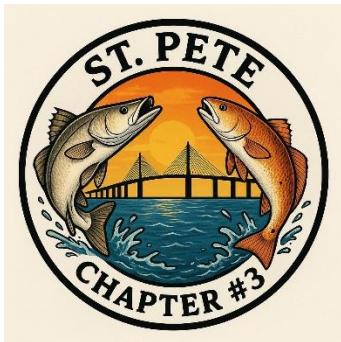


St Pete-Pinellas Chapter Newsletter, October 2025

Just a brief note to let you know what is going on for **October** chapter activities and beyond.



Newsletter Contains web-based hyperlinks for more information. Use the [arrow back key](#) on your web browser to return to the newsletter.

Our next meeting is Wednesday, October 8th, Wader Dave Ulgenalp will give us latest fishing trends and tactics in the Tampa Bay area. Most importantly he will address Wade Fishing, planning considerations, safety and tactics. The chapter will be hosting a [Wade Fishing Tournament](#) starting in November and ending on the last day in December. Plan on attending meeting to get more details and learn more about Wade Fishing.

Past Meeting. We appreciate everyone who participated in our chapter meeting on Wednesday evening at the Studio Movie Grill – Seminole. We were pleased to welcome sixteen (16) new first-time insiders and guests to our meeting. It was a privilege to host you, and we look forward to your continued engagement in future chapter events.

We thank Phillip Hilgert for sharing practical methods for Smart Fishing Spots (SFS). Luke Simonds, our Chief Fishing Addict, visited our meeting and offered valuable tips and answered members' questions. Matthew Hedges generously awarded two custom rods worth \$300 each to our members. Thanks also to everyone who donated fishing gear for the “Fishing with Kids” initiative. [Video pictorial by our chapter Photographer, Brandon Dye](#).

Special thanks to Mitch and Louwanda Landis for their gracious donations to Spots for Tots Fishing Tournament benefiting John Hopkins All Children’s Hospital. The chapter presented “I’m Hooked on You” Teddy Bears and Gift certificated to [Steve Garner](#), a chapter insider and hospital employee. The gifts will be distributed to children admitted as inpatients and their parents at John Hopkins All Children’s Hospital.



We introduced our St Pete Chapter Logo and fishing shirts. Already, we have got over twenty-five orders. We thank everyone for your support. Our pricing is based on a minimum of 50 shirt orders. We are extending the deadline from September 30 to October 15. Select this link to order your [Chapter Fishing Shirt](#)



WhatsApp Fishing Buddy application developed by Chapter VP, Sara Delgado. The application allows members quick access to connect with other members, easily plan meetups, share updates in real time while fishing onsite. The benefits go on and on and it's all free! The app has 4 channels; a general chat channel, one for Kayak anglers, Boat Anglers and most popular Wade and Shoreline fisherman. We have insiders using this application daily with great success.

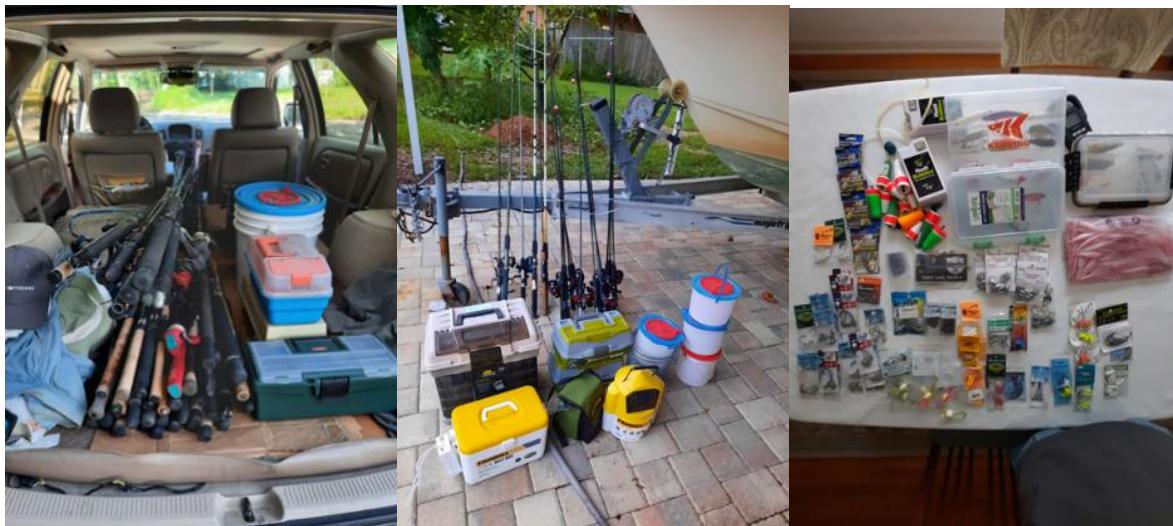
If interested in joining this application you can scan below QR Code or select below link:
<https://chat.whatsapp.com/DnMuBJovNcLFhQDRfFM7kC>

How to Join

Scan the QR Code
OR
Use the Link



"Fishing with Kids" Jan Radjeski, and the chapter leadership thank *our Tampa Bay insiders* who have contributed their unused tackle in support of "Fishing with Kids." This is a continuous program that supports teaching kids how to fish and good fishing conservation. Help us by cleaning out your garage with the fishing gear you have and not being used.



Conservation News (Chris Whitman):

Salt Strong Alliance. The Alliance is still raising funds for "Clams for Cleaner Water (Tampa Bay). Anyone can take a chance at winning a [Micro Draft Skiff](#). Watch the video of this amazing boat. [Buy a Raffle ticket:](#)



Line Recovery Recycle Bins: The St Pete Chapter got a grant from Salt Strong Alliance to build 10 more Line Recovery Recycle Bins. We are building more bins for adoption. Many fishing areas still need bins, and some bins still need adopters. If you know of an area needing a recycling bin, please contact us. Once adopted, we will add a Salt Strong decal to them.



Conservation programs that offer prizes and awards to participants. Fun and rewarding!



Click each Logo for more information

regarding "Catch a Florida Memory" and "Release Over 20."

Chapter Military Veterans: (nearly 100 veteran chapter insiders)



No one from Space Force yet!

["Heroes on the Water"](#) St Pete Chapter insider Gary Pounds is the Tampa Bay Florida Chapter Coordinator. Heroes on the Water supports veterans, first responders, and their families by creating a peaceful environment for healing. Their motto is **"Paddle, Fish, Heal"** Click on above link for more information. Please check out this impressive program.

["Sons of Valor"](#) another nonprofit veteran organization" taking action" by saving veterans' lives from suicides. Insider [Dave Allen, RAFT Captain for "Ocean Therapy"](#) has an important message for our veterans and chapter insider family.

[Insider Recruiting](#). The Salt Strong [Goal](#) is to increase insider membership from 60,000 to 100,000 members. Email a friend to start their insider club membership. St Pete Chapter continues to grow its insiders as we are now **703** insiders strong. The Chapter might hit 800 members by years end?? Thank you, insiders, for getting the word out.

Some insiders attend chapter meetings without joining. Sign up here to take part in activities like fishing tournaments:
<https://community.saltstrong.com/chapter/2/St-Pete-Pinellas-Chapter>

Chapter Tournaments:

St Pete-Pinellas Chapter is the winner of the (Spring Snook Season Chapter SLAM). The competition was close between Sport Coast – Pasco, Tampa Chapter, and Nature Coast Chapter. St Pete had over 50 insiders participating. The Fall Snook Season SLAM is well underway [Fall Snook Season SLAM Tournament](#) September 1 through November 31. Remember to measure your SLAM catches and post to the community as a Tournament entry.

1. **Mystery Catch** –We highly encourage that you remember to post all catches to potentially win.
2. **Dink Champion Belt** – New Dink Champion is Brandon Dye. Please post all dink catches so that eligibility for the Champion title can be determined.



Chapter Wade Fishing Tournament, November 1 – December 31

We are extremely excited to announce a dedicated Wade Fishing Tournament exclusively for our wade fishing anglers. We recognize the unique challenges faced by wade fishermen, especially when it comes to accurately measuring catches, and understand that many wade insiders are often excluded from traditional catch-measurement style tournaments.

Our primary goal is to ensure everyone enjoys their time on the water while also encouraging and promoting this effective style of fishing. To that end, we are carefully finalizing the tournament rules to make participation straightforward and inclusive for all.

The tournament is scheduled to run from November 1 through December 31, which are some of the prime months for wade fishing in our region.

To support both new and interested insiders, we will be pairing participants with experienced wade fishermen. This mentorship will provide valuable opportunities to learn about the necessary equipment, important safety considerations, and the techniques essential for a successful and enjoyable wade fishing experience.

Competition in the tournament will be based on the total number of specified species caught. While this is an individual competition, we strongly encourage all wade anglers to fish with a buddy to enhance safety and camaraderie.

Better yet, you can also attend the St Pete-Pinellas Chapter meeting scheduled for October 8th at the Studio Movie Grill. Wader Dave Ulgenalp <https://community.saltstrong.com/angler/575/Wader-Dave-Ulgenalp> will give some great fishing trends and reports for the Tampa Bay area. The chapter will introduce a Wade Fishing Tournament at the meeting.

RSVP: <https://community.saltstrong.com/events.php?eventId=21&repeatCount=8&startTime=2025-10-08+22%3A30%3A00&endTime=2025-10-09+00%3A00%3A00> (select “count me in”)

Meeting Raffle & Giveaways: Many of our insiders received some awesome raffle giveaways at the chapter meeting. Many insiders attending went home with their free winnings: SS Lure packs, fishing accessories, t-shirts, hats, SS decals, etc. Attend and try your luck with these free prizes! All donations go back to our insider chapter members for tournament prizes and raffle giveaways!! It's a Salt Strong way of doing things.

Chapter Shirts: We have decided on the Logo for the chapter shirts. The shirt will be a long sleeve fishing shirt (Dry Fit UV protected), Price range between \$35-40, Hooded & non hooded. [Order your Chapter Fishing Shirt Now!](#)



Upcoming Chapter Meetings and Events:

- September 1 – November 30 – Snook Season Slam & Fall Chapter Challenge
- October 8 - TBD - [Wader Dave](#)
- November 1 – December 31 – [Chapter Wade Fishing Tournament](#), All Release.
- November 12 – [Capt. Ryan Harrington](#), Fishing Tips and Trends, “Ike Jime” method of preparing fish.
- December 10 – Snook Season Award Ceremony and Xmas Social

Special Corporate Supporter: **Matthew Hedges** the CEO of “On the Horizon Investments.” Matthew is our Chapter Supporter. He is a multi-chapter member in Salt Strong and a heck of great angler too. Mathew’s generosity of giving back and following the path of his late father was truly inspiring. Understand maybe some SS rods to giveaway too. To win, you must attend our Chapter meetings. Matthew will always be a special member of the St Pete-Pinellas chapter family.

Background: Matthew Hedges offers his financial services to all insiders needing help putting a great family, business or individual financial plan together with a focus on reducing tax liability, sheltering your investable assets from any downturns in the market, and protecting your legacy. For more information go to onthehorizoninvestments.com or scan



**On the Horizon
INVESTMENTS**

**Matthew
Hedges**

813-641-4820

matthew.hedges@proton.me

Tax Shelter Investing

Legacy Planning

NPN #20843473



my QR code below..

Chapter Questionnaire: Thanks to all those who completed the chapter Questionnaire. Your information is being used to better communicate with the chapter insiders and to develop and support programs that will enhance our fishing success. Link: [Chapter Questionnaire](#)

Real time information: We encourage everyone to use the St Pete Chapter link on the community website for obtaining updated information on Chapter Tournaments and meeting events. To familiar yourself with these features, just click on this link and select the various tabs marked: Discussion, Members, About, RSVP, Tournaments, and Events:

<https://community.saltstrong.com/chapter/2/St-Pete-Pinellas-Chapter>

Chapter Recommended Fishing Guides: (Select Links below)

1. [Capt. Dave Pomerleau "The Mad Snooker" \(Bradenton Area\)](#)
2. [Capt. George Hastick, "The Fish Hunter"\(St Petersburg & Tampa Area\)](#)
3. [Dave Ulgenalp \(Wader Dave\) \(Tampa Bay Area\)](#)
4. [Capt. Ray Markam \(Tampa Bay Area\)](#)
5. [Brinkley Peters, Wade Fishing. \(Lower Tampa Bay Area\)](#)

Chapter Resources:

[Smart Fishing Spots Presentation](#)

[Pinellas County Annual Parking Permits](#)

[Fishing Reel Repairs](#)

[Fishing Guide Directory](#)

[Authorized Marine Service Center Providers](#)

Boating: [Central Marine Sales](#), SS insider: **Brad Berryman:** 727.347.9999 email: bberryman@centralmarine.com

Classified Listings: (new to newsletter, if you have fishy stuff for sale let us know)

2022 Robalo R222, Center Console, 250 HP Yamaha SHO; 130 hours, 10" Blade Powerpole, Garmin GPS, custom seat and helm covers, removable bow dining table. Great family and fishing boat. \$79,000.00 or best offer. Call: Al c: 727.458.6579 or Liesa: c: 813.781.0777



“Be Smart, Be Safe, and always remain Salt Strong.”

Tight Lines: From the St Pete – Pinellas Chapter Leadership Team,

Alex Peterson, Chapter President

Sara Delgado, Chapter Vice President

Thomas Wickham, Chapter Tournaments Coordinator

Chris Whitman, Chapter Conservation Coordinator

Jan Radjeski, Chapter Outreach and “Fishing with Kids” Coordinator

