

EAGA Business Builder

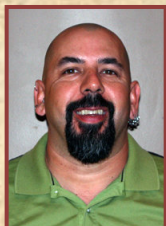
Volume 11

Issue 35

eaganm.com

August 25, 2015

Today's speaker was Troy Otero - Groundhog Excavating



Troy is a local boy. He grew up in New Mexico and actually graduated from Highland High. Pretty soon after that graduation, Troy headed to northern California to work with his Dad. He (the younger Mr. Otero) learned the crafts of construction and machining. Even back then, Troy had that 'do something different today' work attitude. He went from northern California to L.A. to be a machinist for a few months before heading back to the north. For about 10 years, he was a migrant worker. Not from season to season, but from industry to industry. A machinist for awhile; then a contractor; then some prototype machine work - aerospace related; or computer related; or building molds; or making connectors for caustic materials handling systems. Then, in 1996 Troy came back to Albuquerque to help out his Mom. He and a couple of friends became home builders. They acquired a good collection of awards, but not a big collection of dollars; however, some of the side jobs got him interested in dirt work. In late 1996, he spent \$10,000 and became the proud owner of a backhoe. Not a backhoe and a trailer—just a backhoe. Small issues like lack of a trailer didn't stop the determined and entrepreneurial Troy. For him, it was a great opportunity to view the very early morning sunrises from the seat of a lumbering backhoe as he drove the beast from one job to the next. He took on some trenching work; then some service jobs for TLC; and those evolved into concrete removal and utilities work. As the time, experience and reputation progressed, Troy became more of a demolition specialist. He and his crew can tear up nearly anything. They have the ability to bring in a 48 inch diameter Slab-saw and cut through many things at whatever angle is appropriate. They can bore a large (or small; or very large) hole in concrete, rock, block, or butter. They use diamond beaded wire blades for cutting those same things, but with more precision and flexibility. Given enough time for research and planning, the Groundhog Excavating guys can tear up, knock down; cut away, and/or move just about anything. If you need the lid cut off a concrete vault; buildings (or parts thereof) removed; concrete crushed; 6 foot thick reinforced walls cut down and moved; or residue stripped from a kiln, Troy is the person to call. They always work professionally, and when the job requires, they do it with finesse. Seismic sensitive areas and tight-spot work areas are not a problem. But let's not leave the impression that they are just a group of destructive buggars. The Groundhog Excavating folks can be anti-destructive as well. They clean up rock slides and cover the hillside with sewn together sheets of durable netting and mesh to prevent future damage from falling rock; they can install airport runway lighting (without leaving little ramps for the planes to bump over); they do design sewer tank jobs; are quite capable of making a 12 foot wide road through a previously scarily inaccessible area; and oh my gosh! ...did you see the way up in the air - from scaffolding on ladders attached to the wall - work that they did to clean out a 50 or 60 year accumulation of sediment and crap from the locks and water pipes in that dam? And all for the occasional paycheck and much less frequent discovery of the skull of a 1300 year old area dweller. Troy not only has robotic machines and hydraulic machines and electric powered machines and gas or diesel powered machines, he has a great willingness to discover new processes and techniques; he has the experience, ability and desire to learn new technologies and he can figure out how to productively do things other folks wouldn't even attempt. Mr. Otero is much more than a slightly bald, metal magnet. There is a lot going on behind the eyes and grin of that fellow. If you are in need of one or more of the many, many services that Groundhog Excavating can provide, give Troy a call at 505-243-2133.

- ♦ There will not be a meeting on September 8th, because of the Labor Day Holiday.
- ♦ Bobby Jackson's grandson, Joshua, was severely injured in an automobile race track accident a couple of weeks ago. His injuries are very serious and he will be undergoing medical procedures and hospital stays for quite awhile. Joshua's friends have set up a web-site where any interested persons can make a donation to help offset some of the medical treatment and care costs. If you would like to assist, please visit the site via: <http://www.gofundme.com/joshjacksonracing>

Contact information for Executive Director: Mario Hernandez

Phone: 505-239-0259

email: hernmar129@yahoo.com

Postal mail: 8100 Wyoming Blvd NE; Suite M-4 #345; Albuquerque, NM 87113

Business Leads:

None written down today

Reciprocity:

Thank you to:

Aaron Rodgers for some electrical work.

Jack Zipper for a referral.

Joe Kirkpatrick - Auto Glass Services for a windshield installation.

- From Mike Deveraux

- ◆ Thank you! To Dan Mowery for the tour of Rader Awning facilities last Tuesday. Very interesting operation they have there. Rader can make the obvious awnings, tarps, tents from whatever color, or colors, vinyl you would like; furniture upholstery, protective covers for machines, RVs and boats; and they make and install window shades and covers. Most of the components are fabricated by Rader staff as well. We saw some retractable fabric awnings and durable electronically operated louvered patio covers, with built in channels to direct rainwater to built-in downspouts. In the tour of the very large shop where the awnings, covers, etc. etc., etc. are put together, we saw huge work surfaces for laying out the material and the sewing and stapling machines (including a 1945 vintage device) that are still used in some of the fabrications, but those processes leave small needle holes that could compromise the seal. We also saw the room where they use a sonic wave process to heat-seal vinyl pieces together; a durable result without the needle holes. None of us were brave enough to enter, past the sign cautioning no unescorted entry, and even then not to "touch any materials, machinery, shelving or any metal objects" for fear of burns. On past the aluminum and metal component room, we could see a large somewhat full outside storage area. Dan directed us away from that area because he thought it not too safe out there. Was that it, or was that yard the hiding place of some treasures that he didn't want the public to see yet? He did show off the raw wood style furniture sets and some build-it-yourself wood buildings that he has for sale. That furniture is actually quite interesting and neat. Phil Kenny noticed that the ever-resourceful Dan had diverted a couple of hospital gurneys to material transport carts. No need in disposing of a good piece of equipment when it can be transformed into something else. Dan is good at reclaiming and reincarnating things. And that is a positive. Thanks for the quite interesting view of Rader Awning from the inside.
- ◆ Shotgun raffle will be September 15th. Ask TJ if there are any remaining tickets available.
- ◆ The Jim Fanning Memorial Trap Shoot will be Friday, September 25th at the Albuquerque Trap Club. Sign up sheets will be circulating soon, so clean up the firearms and get ready to destroy some clays. Loaner guns will be available; shells are provided; donuts, burritos and breakfast drinks will be there.

Badge Board Greeters

Sept 1st	Jeff Sakamoto - Heritage Hotels & Resorts
Sept 8th	No Meeting - Labor Day Holiday
Sept 15th	Dave Giddens - Law Office of George "Dave" Giddens
Sept 22nd	Robert Biernacki - Waterquest Landscaping
Sept 29th	

Upcoming Speakers

Sept 1st	John Menicucci - Berger Briggs Real Estate
Sept 8th	No Meeting - Labor Day Holiday
Sept 15th	EAGA website tutorial
Sept 22nd	Glen Millican - UNM Head Golf Coach
Sept 29th	Kevin Lorenzen - Aflac
Oct 6th	Mike Skolnick—Excalibur Realty
Oct 13th	Robert Biernacki—Water quest