

EAGA Business Builder

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Today's guest speaker was Scott Lardner—Rocky Mountain Stone



Mr. Lardner was born in 1961, but not in New Mexico. He is justified in being classified as a native though...his family moved to Albuquerque in 1963, so Scott has been here just two years short of a his entire life. The Lardner's family venture to Albuquerque was the result of Scott's father's desire to get a pilot's license. In those days, to get the license he needed training that was offered at very few places, and

Kirtland was one of them. The elder Mr. Lardner's day job was that of a mason, and having a good supply of stone was quite important. Shelton Stone was the Albuquerque supplier at that time, but when they closed, Mr. Lardner decided to open a supply company of his own. That was the origination of Rocky Mountain Stone. Before we delve into the stone side of Scott's world, we should discuss the other very important part of his life. He received an Operations Management Degree, with a minor in Marketing, from New Mexico State University. In 1988, Scott married Chris. They have three children. Danielle, Caitlin and Sean. All are grown now and out on their own. Danielle and her husband, Peter, are about two weeks away from bringing the first of the next generation into the world. Caitlin is a Product Launch Manager in Ireland and Japan. Sean is 22 and working in the Family Business at Rocky Mountain Stone. Now for that business/hobby side of Scott Lardner. Scott has been involved, in one capacity or another, with Rocky Mountain Stone for a ton of years. From Scott's very early years, when he learned to drive a forklift at the age of 7, through his not so very early years at his age today, he has enjoyed and admired everything stone related. Some his favorite places to have visited, or on his to-visit list, are Stonehenge, the Egyptian Pyramids, Machu Picchu, the Roman Coliseum, and the Acropolis in Greece. He has a tremendous amount of knowledge about stone materials. Scott can tell you how the man-made products are made, and he can tell you where and how the natural ones are retrieved from their quarries. To Scott, stone materials are the ultimate building product. They provide a connection to history; they express power and stability; and they create a sense of luxury and sophistication. Fabricated stone materials can come in about 1,500 different colors. Natural stones do come in colors other than gray and white, but the pinks of the world are certainly not in demand these days. There are quite a few types of stone used for construction, remodeling and decorating. Granite, quartz, marble, travertine, porcelain, and others. Scott knows pretty much everything about all of them. Granite can stand temperatures up to 1800 degrees, while the man-made products that contain a binding polymer will only hold up to 350 degrees. (So the products containing polymers are not at all good for counter tops where they could come in contact with hot pans). Stone materials can be cut and polished to give definitely different looks. The best quartz and granite come from Brazil and Africa. The best marble comes from Italy, Turkey or Greece. As noted earlier, the stone world is Scott's world. He has lived there for most of his life, and he knows all there is to know. Mr. Lardner is heavily involved in various industry boards and trustee groups. He has been president of the Marble Institute of America (wonder if they have an office building and what material it is made of). If you want granite counter tops; have a need for stone construction, stone enhancements or decorative additions for a remodeling project, give Scott a call at 505-345-8518 He is also an excellent source for knowledge, so if you would like to know more about that very interesting stone world that Scott lives in, take him out to lunch and listen to what he has to tell you. But, it may take lunch every day for a few months to have enough time to get only a small percentage of the information that Scott can provide.

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Business Leads:

Le Peep at Juan Tabo and Montgomery will become a Weck's Special about mid-August

-Lionel Specter—ZEON Signs

Reciprocity:

Thank you to Andy Pomroy - Windsor Door for repairing my Mom's garage door opener... same day service.

- John Menicucci—Berger Briggs

Thank you to Aaron Rodgers for great service in fixing light fixtures at our daughter's home in Rio Rancho.

Thank you to Chuck Mitchell for great service...as always.

- Jack Zipper

Thank you to Chuck Mitchell for getting our van going.

- Frank McCallister—Color New Mexico

◆ Most of you are aware of Dan's recent ordeal at the hands of kidnapers. Pages 3 & 4 of this bulletin are a copy of the August 3rd Albuquerque Journal article noting information that was available for publication at that time. Dan has amazing wit, tenacity and determination and we are very glad that he is back.

◆ Second announcement of a potential new member:

Perfection Pools & Spas, LLC

Representative: Miguel Mendoza

Category: Swimming Pool Construction & Maintenance

Sponsors: Tim Baca

If you have an objection to this company becoming a member, or if you have information that you feel should be considered during the application review process, please contact Membership Committee Chairman, Jack Zipper (jdzipper@comcast.net or 505-259-5959) as soon as possible.

◆ Board Members please note: There will be a Board of Directors meeting this coming Tuesday, August 14th.

◆ Upcoming EAGA events:

—Annual Jim Fanning Memorial Trap Shoot will be Friday, September 14th at 8:00 am. This year's raffle will be for His & Hers handguns. Tickets will go on sale soon. There will also be breakfast burritos, coffee and door prizes. If you don't have a shotgun, there will be some sure-shot loaners available. Guests are welcome, for a small fee. More details will be provided at our Tuesday breakfast meetings; or if you have questions, you can contact TJ Maloy; Jack Zipper; or Executive Director, Kevin.

Badge Board Greeters

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|-----------|---|
| Aug 14th | Scott Wilson—Crane Services, Inc |
| Aug 21st | Steve Grant—Downtown Historic Bed & Breakfast |
| Aug 28th | Tim Baca—Kangen Water |
| Sept 4th | NO MEETING _ LABOR DAY HOLIDAY |
| Sept 11th | Barry Porter—Express Employment |

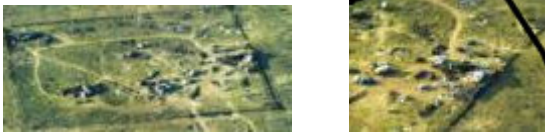
Upcoming Speakers

| | |
|-----------|------------------------------|
| Aug 14th | Joel Sanchez—Paylocity |
| Aug 21st | |
| Aug 28th | Raul Rodriguez—Kings of Wrap |
| Sept 4th | NO MEETING—LABOR DAY HOLIDAY |
| Sept 11th | |

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Feds issue arrest warrant in kidnapping

By Elise Kaplan / Journal Staff Writer



Compound on the Pajarito Mesa where a businessman said he was held for ransom last month. (Courtesy of a search warrant affidavit)

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Federal agents are searching for two men who they say kidnapped a successful businessman from his Placitas home last month, drove him – blindfolded – to the Pajarito Mesa and held him in a shed for a \$10,000 ransom.

The businessman, identified only as 69-year-old “DM,” was freed that night and dropped off near a South Valley gas station, covered with blood and with a shirt over his head. DM is described as owning a business with locations in both Albuquerque and Santa Fe.

A federal arrest warrant has been issued for one of the suspects, Jose Ramirez, a former employee of DM’s who is charged with kidnapping, carjacking, interference with commerce by threats or violence, conspiracy, and aiding and abetting.



Jose Ramirez, 39 (FBI)

Ramirez, 39, is considered armed and dangerous, an FBI spokesman wrote in a news release.

According to an arrest warrant affidavit filed in U.S. District Court, on July 26 around 6 a.m. DM was heading out of his garage on his way to work in his red Ford Ranger when two people wearing stocking caps on their heads and blue bandanas over their faces jumped into his truck, wrapped their arms around his neck and covered his mouth. A struggle ensued.

“During the struggle, DM realized a snub-nosed revolver had fallen to the ground and DM was able to retrieve the firearm,” an agent wrote in the affidavit. “DM pointed the gun at one of the UNSUBS (unknown subjects) and pulled the trigger several times, however the revolver did not fire.”

DM said he realized the other kidnapper was armed with a semi-automatic pistol and, fearing he was going to be shot, he stopped fighting.

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The kidnappers forced him into the middle seat, tied a shirt over his eyes and drove away, according to the affidavit.

DM told investigators that while the kidnappers knew him by his first name, knew he had two safes and believed he had “a significant amount of money in the bank,” he was able to convince them that all he could come up with was \$10,000. They took his cellphone and \$600 from his wallet.

At one point, DM said, the kidnapers took him out of the truck's cab, tied him up, made him lie down in the bed of the truck and covered him with carpets. Then they drove to a remote compound west of Albuquerque.

Still blindfolded, DM was seated on a couch in a shed with a dirt floor, where he listened to his abductors speak with two women in Spanish.

He was then told to call his daughter and give her instructions on how to wire the remaining \$9,400 to a bank account in Guadalajara, Mexico.

But the routing information was not sufficient to complete the transfer and, after several failed attempts, the kidnapers suggested DM's daughter get cash and meet them Downtown.

It is unclear from the affidavit if the ransom was paid, but several hours later, around 10:45 p.m., DM was dropped off near the train tracks at Rio Bravo and Second Street SW. He had injuries to his head and face, and walked to a gas station where clerks called 911.

Agents were quickly able to identify Ramirez – who was on parole – as one of the suspects based on records of his his phone calls with DM's daughter and a distinctive stutter, according to the affidavit.

When DM was shown photographs, he recognized Ramirez as an employee he fired nine years ago after a theft.

The morning after the kidnapping, agents went looking for Ramirez, but couldn't find him. Ramirez's parole officer said he had been ordered to wear a GPS ankle monitor, but had cut it off the day before the kidnapping.

A couple of days after the kidnapping, DM, who is a pilot, used his own aircraft to fly over the route he believed he had traveled and he identified the compound where he said he had been held, according to a search warrant affidavit agents filed on Wednesday. Agents requested help from the FBI aircraft and SWAT teams for the search.

FBI spokesman Frank Fisher said they “conducted a court-authorized law enforcement operation” on the Pajarito Mesa area Thursday morning.

On Thursday afternoon, he announced the agency is offering a \$1,000 reward for information leading to Ramirez's arrest and conviction.