

# EAGA Business Builder

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## The speaker today was Mark Abramson—Los Ranchos Gun Shop



Mark is an Ohio boy. Actually born in another state, but moved to Ohio at a young enough age that we can call him an Ohio boy. He says that he is from a large Jewish family, mostly on his Mom's side. The family has grown to include spouses, and relatives of spouses that have married other relatives of the original family...and the family tree begins winding around on itself. With the underlying relationships, reunions may need a warning level code, depending on who will be there. Mark's specific branch is quite good though. He has been married to wife, Mindy, for 35 years. There is a rumor that you may get two different answers if you ask them when they first met. That story will be left to Mark to explain. The Abramsons do agree that the most beneficial meeting was a sort of blind date arranged by a mutual acquaintance. Their 35 years together started a little after that. Their world also includes two wise and self sufficient children. A son that is now 33 years old; graduated from Bowling Green State University and, as good fortune would have it, was transferred to Albuquerque by his employer last year. And a daughter that is 30 years old and recently earned an MBA degree as an architect. She is now involved in real estate development—building communities. Speaking of youngsters...Mark was one once. But his youth was anything but uneventful. An entrepreneur at age 14 or 15, Mark figured out that he could turn a profit selling otherwise unused alcohol (that he acquired for \$0). Mark's father was a doctor and friends and patients would often give the elder Mr. Abramson gifts for the holidays. Since his father did not drink, the beverages just accumulated in a storeroom. Mark figured out that there was an underground market for the booze. His high school's football players were part of that market. The younger Mr. Abramson was also a Boy Scout, and with the experience he had derived from the aforementioned high school alcohol distribution business, decided to try for the very rare Bootlegger Merit Badge. The planning and development came to fruition when he snuck into a different troop's scout camp and sold some of his father's supply to friends at that camp. Apparently the scouting authorities were not as impressed as were the camp participants. Not only did those in charge not acknowledge the existence of that particular merit badge, they did not agree with Mark's business plan either. At 15 years of age, Mark was asked to leave the Boy Scouts program. It is safe to say that being banished at such a young age did not affect Mark's long term successes, though. He moved on to finish high school, college and law school. But Mark was not destined to stay completely away from scouting, either. When he returned home after successful educational accomplishments, his old scoutmaster 'ordered' Mark back to help with the troop. Mr. Abramson didn't just 'help', he became substantially involved. Helping with the troop; then becoming a District Chairman; and a Council Chairman; and on from there. These days, Mark is a part of the National Shooting Sports Council. His involvement in the shooting program is another side story in Mark's very interesting life. As a youngster, and even somewhat into his adult life, he did not really like guns. He had some experience with them at scout camps, but no other involvement during the rest of the year. After Mark had married and was living in Toledo, that city encountered Mayor Finkbeiner. The mayor thought a good way to balance the budget would be to lay off policemen. At that point, Mark decided it would be a necessity for him to get a gun to protect himself and his family. You know that Mark doesn't just do things haphazardly. He understood that owning a firearm would require some learning, and a large amount of training. He educated himself about firearms; their operation and safety practices. Mr. Abramson is also very aware that sharing knowledge multiplies its benefit. He decided to share his firearms knowledge and training with the scouts. He, and other leaders, created a year-round, fun, shooting program - the National Shooting Sports program. That energy has also evolved and Mark is now a regular trainer of trainers for youth shooting programs. One of his more enjoyable, and more important, tasks is an annual training for staff at the Philmont Scout Ranch. There will be 24,000 scouts pass through that program this year and the folks that Mark trains will share what they've learned with all those scouts. Mr. Abramson's knowledge will be exponentially transferred to the camp participants. A great thing for the scouts, and a very rewarding thing for Mark. As with most people, Mark's historical path may have wound in a variety of directions, but in the long run, it is why he is where he is today. That would be a lawyer / gun shop owner in Los Ranchos New Mexico. How his past actually got him to Albuquerque may be a little confusing since he and Mindy had only visited Albuquerque once—about 10 years before they pulled up the Ohio roots and moved here. The gun shop owner aspect is definitely a product of his past though. In the years since that mayor pushed him into gun ownership, Mark has become very aware of the benefits of firearm knowledge and ownership. He wants to help folks become comfortable with owning a gun. And he wants people of all ages to understand and experience the enjoyment that is available with responsible shooting. Los Ranchos Gun Shop is a reliable source for not only quality firearms, but also for whatever information and education you may need regarding guns and shooting. To take advantage of Mark's knowledge, give him a call at 505-645-4276. He and his staff are there help with whatever you need in the firearms arena. Mr. Abramson is also very familiar with the new state regulations that go into affect on July 1st. It would also be interesting to know if he has any insight about a plan to revive / establish the Bootlegger Merit Badge.

## Business Leads:

None noted today

## Reciprocity:

None written down today

- ◆ **Please note that there will not be a meeting on July 2nd because of the 4th of July holiday.**
- ◆ We are in need of a speaker for July 9th. That is our next meeting, so if you are interested in taking that slot, please contact Mario right away. His information is in the box at the bottom of this page.
- ◆ Shockwave Defense will provide a 4 hour training session regarding evasion and escape techniques and other personal self defense measures. It will be for EAGA members only, and EAGA will pay a portion of the cost. Sign up sheets and other information will be available at our next meetings.
- ◆ Summer Bash has been set for August 24th. More information will be provided in the next few weeks, but be sure to reserve that date on your calendar now. That event is always a great time. The committee will have their next meeting on July 11th. Details will be provided via email and at our July 9th meeting. For additional information, contact Pat Maloy (505-263-3837 pat@maloystorage.com) or Dan Mowery 505-480-8526 danmowery@gmail.com)
- ◆ Invoices have been sent out for the for quarterly dues. They will be arriving via email from Intuit. If you have not received the invoice , please check your spam filter. If you still do not find it, please email Executive Director, Mario and he will get you a copy. His email and contact information is in in the box at the bottom of this page.

## Badge Board Greeters

July 2nd	No Meeting Fourth of July Holiday
July 9th	Tim Baca—Kangen Water
July 16th	Kale Isaacson—Fyzical Albuquerque
July 23rd	Miguel Mendoza—Perfection Pools and Spas
July 30th	John Baerman—Susie N Cleaners and Alterations
Aug 6th	Phil Menicucci—Paramount Custom Cabinets

## Upcoming Speakers

July 2nd	No Meeting Fourth of July Holiday
July 9th	
July 16th	Laurence Saban—AED One-Stop Shops
July 23rd	Jack Thompson—Legacy Mortgage
July 30th	Michael Johnson—Shockwave Defense
Aug 6th	Guest Speaker, John Stomp—Albuquerque Bernalillo County Water Utility Authority

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