

EAGA Business Builder

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Today's speaker was Randy Baker—DRB Electric



[This writer was not able to attend today's meeting, so today's article will consist of data from notes provided by Mario (thank you Mario) and excerpts from 'The Best of Randy Baker's Previous Presentations']

David Randall Baker was born quite a few years ago in Farmington, New Mexico. Many of his younger days were spent in the more rural parts of the state, like Gallup, Fence Lake and Quemado. Randy's father was an electrician and much of his work was in those communities, and on the surrounding Indian Reservations. At age 10 (or was it 13), Randy began working with his father in the family business. As a youngster, he was driving trenchers and backhoes long before the other kids his age were even thinking about driving cars. He learned all aspects of the electrical trade, from how do electrical wiring, to how use those boot spike things to shinny up and down wooden poles (mostly without splinter related incidents). That 'internship' lasted through high school. After graduation, Randy had intended to join the Marines, but his uncle and a friend managed to talk Mr. Baker into staying home and continuing to help in his father's electrical business. A little while later, Randy decided to venture out a bit farther from the familiar, comfortable work environment. He got a job at Howard Electric in Gallup. He did hat for a year or two, but it wasn't the same as working for 'a family business'. So in 1986, the 25 year old Randy decided to open his own shop - and DRB Electric was off and running. In the 34 or so years since then, DRB has become a very prominent electrical company in Albuquerque...and beyond. They have a very positive reputation and are well liked and well respected. The DRB folks have a tremendous amount of knowledge and experience in many aspects of the electrical industry. DRB's portfolio includes a wide variety of diverse projects like: work on the Isleta Waste Water Treatment Plant; the 64 pod detention center near Socorro; the Hotel Parq project (that included the integration of innovative technologies into their renovation project); the terminal optimization project for the Albuquerque International Sunport; and numerous electrical projects for the University of New Mexico, including scoreboards for the football stadium and the McKinnon Tennis Complex. DRB has also done large maintenance jobs for the Sandia Star Casino, Albuquerque Isotopes, City of Albuquerque, Bernalillo County and for a many, many large venues around New Mexico. DRB also operates a S.W.A.T. (Stolen Wire Action Team) for quick response to help get facilities back in operation after jerks have ripped off their copper wiring. Randy and his electrical group are also quite proud of their Design/Build Division for construction, renovations and additions. Besides being a third generation electrician (when you count his grandfather's brief stint as an electrical engineer when he burned down the family barn while trying to wire it for lights), Randy has other interests too. He is very proud of his family. Randy says that his wife, Denise, is the driving force behind his success. They have been married for more than a quarter of a century and have five children. Daughters Kristen, Lindsey, Jennifer and Lenee and son David. The not-so-young anymore children are all out in the world on their own now. Randy has managed to keep some of them nearby though. David works with his Dad at DRB, and a couple of the young ladies work with Randy and Denise at Rio Bravo Brewing. Speaking of Rio Bravo Brewing...that is another of Randy's non-electrical industry interests. He and Denise opened the Brewery in August of 2015. Randy says that they decided to get into that business because he really loves beer. (Probably he was destined to that fate since his birthday is only a day or so off from National American Beer Day). Getting the business started was, as new businesses usually are, a bit tenuous, but it wasn't too long before things began falling in place. Rio Bravo was doing well and business was on a very good upward trend through 2019. But that was "Pre-Covid19". Almost all of the 2020 year was stressful. The government directed shutdown, even though it was later followed by a very limited start-up again, caused not only substantially reduced revenues, but also substantial increases in operating costs because of new, or different, materials, supplies and procedures needed to for the brewery to be open within the guidelines. Randy noted his appreciation to all EAGA members that helped throughout those tough days. It was also fortunate that the brewery is a large venue because size matters when the restrictions only allowed operation based on a percentage of available seating space. Hopefully the pandemic is receding and business can start to get closer to what it was before that nightmare. It helps that Rio Bravo is an International Beer Award winner, and that they still have Admiral Beverage as their distributor for New Mexico. It certainly is a benefit for Rio Bravo to have a qualified and dedicated staff (for which Randy loudly notes his appreciation). If you have an electrical job planned or if you have an electrical emergency appear, or if you know of any qualified electricians that are interested in working for a good company (DRB has been awarded as one of New Mexico's Best Places To Work), give Mr. Baker a call at 505-877-8500. If you know of any construction (or remodeling or renovation) projects in the offing, have the owner give Randy a call as well. DRB's Design/Build Division would be glad to help with those projects, and remember - leads about jobs before they 'get out of the ground' are most beneficial for that type work. Randy would probably also be glad to visit with you at one of Rio Bravo's socially distanced tables if you are interested in swapping tales of the one that got away on a hunting or fishing adventure. It is likely that he has a few stories to share.

- ◆ Our next meeting will be 7:00am Tuesday, March 23rd, at Rio Bravo Brewing. Please remember that we are still under the government imposed restrictions, so social distancing, face masks, and so on are still required. We need to make sure that Rio Bravo stays out of trouble. Please wear your mask to and from the meeting, and at **any time when you are not seated** and eating breakfast. That includes the times when you just leave your table to get another drink, or gotalk to another member. Also note: It is not a self-serve buffet. The food and drinks will be served by Rio Bravo staff.
- ◆ Upcoming speakers:

Mar	23rd	Patrick Wallace—Essential Pest Cotrol
Mar	30th	Guest Speaker—Viante New Mexico
Apr	4th	
Apr	11th	
- ◆ We need speakers for our April meetings. Please consider taking one of those opportunities. If you can make a presentation at any of our future meetings, please contact Mario to let him know. We are waiting to hear your story.

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