

RIO GRANDE

Mexican Restaurant

WHO WE ARE



PAT McGAUGHRAN

Founder & Owner of the Rio Grande Mexican Restaurants

Pat McGaughran was born the seventh of eight children to Lawrence and Kate McGaughran in Houston, Texas. A graduate of Houston Technical Institute in 1975, Pat has worked in a variety of technical fields – from construction work to electrical and welding. Pat is a jack-of-all-trades when it comes to mechanical and repair work.

After a few years of traveling and experiencing life down south, Pat and his two friends, twin brothers André and Stephen Mouton, settled in Fort Collins, Colorado. In 1986, Pat entered into a partnership with André and Stephen to create the first Rio Grande Mexican Restaurant. The shared experience in friendship, management, construction, and cooking was a winning combination, as the Rio Grande Mexican Restaurants grew throughout Colorado's Front Range. Pat is known to have brought the first frozen margarita to Fort Collins by purchasing a broken soft-serve ice cream machine, and reworking it to introduce the notorious Classic Rio Marg. Pat's technical skills and talent have been vital to the growth and success of the Rio as he was able to build and repair any needs during the start of their exciting restaurant journey.

In 1999, Pat became the sole proprietor of the Rio Grande Mexican Restaurants, Inc. With the experience gained in the partnership, a strong and loyal management team, and growing brand recognition, Pat has led the company to six locations, over 600 employees, and nearly \$25 million in sales. He is also known for curating the artistic look and feel within each restaurant, contributing to the ambiance by personally welding several elements, including the Tequila Vault at the Rio in Fort Collins and other locations.

In 2014, Pat developed a new restaurant concept with partners, Jason Barrett & Stephen Richter, known as RARE Italian in Fort Collins. This partnership is looking forward to growth opportunities in the restaurant industry and beyond.

As an advocate for community building and engagement, Pat became very involved in Fort Collins' cycling community in the early 2000s. His personal passion for cycling grew and eventually, Team Rio Grande Racing was established with the support of other Fort Collins area cyclists. Team Rio Grande Racing has become known world-wide as an elite cycling team, developing cyclists from a young age and supporting competitive riders across the Front Range. From the team, several riders have progressed to compete in Tour de France and across Europe. If you keep your eyes out on the roads between Fort Collins and Boulder, you may catch some of our riders sporting the Team Rio riding kit in red, white and black with the classic sugar skull design. In addition to Team Rio Grande Racing, Pat also supports other area cycling groups such as Fort Follies, an all-female cycling community that challenges and supports women who are interested in developing their skills for racing.

Pat enjoys spending time with his wife Laura, son Quinn and family. He enjoys riding his bike, working in his welding shop, and rebuilding old trucks, like the infamous red, Rio-branded pick-up truck known as Petey (as seen to the right).



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JASON BARRETT

Chief Executive Officer of the Rio Grande Mexican Restaurants

Jason was raised in Wisconsin and attended Norwich University in Vermont. Upon graduation, he entered the U.S. Marine Corps on an ROTC scholarship and served 21 years commanding units ranging from 40 to 1000 people. When not in command, Jason taught leadership development and decision making. Later in his career, he was placed in positions that required operational and strategic level planning. Jason served in Iraq and Afghanistan as a Planner and led all elections planning in the 5 southeast provinces of Iraq and then became Chief of Plans for ISAF, the International Security Assistance Force in Afghanistan.

During his career in the Marine Corps, Jason was selected to be one of ten Marines for a Corporate Fellowship and served as Executive Assistant to the President and CEO of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. There, he planned, coordinated and attended economic summits, to include – the World Economic Forum, Davos, Switzerland; Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation, Santiago, Chile; and the Fortune 500 Summit, Beijing, China. Jason also served as U.S. Exchange Officer with the British Royal Marines, during which time he was selected to attend the Windsor Leadership Trust.

Jason joined the Rio Grande Mexican Restaurants, Inc. in 2007 as Strategic Advisor to the owner. He served on Rio's advisory board and consulted the company on leadership development and strategic planning. He later permanently joined the leadership team in 2010 as Director of Plans and Development and was appointed CEO in July of 2011 with the mission to immediately return the Rio to fiscal health and position it for growth. From 2011 to 2016, Jason restructured every element of the company while maintaining Rio's iconic culture.

In 2014, Jason opened RARE Italian, a restaurant in Fort Collins. Inspired by travels to Italy and his family's Italian heritage, Jason partnered with Steve Richter, Chief Operating Officer of the Rio, and Pat McGaughan, Rio's Founder and Owner, to craft this one-of-a-kind Italian Steakhouse.

Jason is happily married to the former Mari Cameron of Linlithgow, Scotland. Together, they have two daughters, Rosie (20) and Lilli (18).

ORGANIZATIONS:

- Board of Directors of Fort Collins Downtown Business Association – Served as Secretary, Vice President and President
- Board of Directors of Employers Council; Denver, Colorado
- Board of Directors of Fort Collins Country Club
- Fort Collins Puckhawgs – Senior Men's Tournament Hockey Team- Right Wing