

# RIO GRANDE

*Mexican Restaurant*

## WHO WE ARE



## PAT McGAUGHRAN

### Founder & Owner of the Rio Grande Mexican Restaurants

Pat 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 five locations, over 475 employees, and nearly \$25M 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 and 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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