



FACES, PLACES, & VOICES OF



PETER SEILER

US Marine Corps Veteran & Small Business Owner

As we celebrate Veterans Day this month, we'd like to pay special tribute to our veteran members who own their own small business and those who support them.

We sat down with one of our veteran members, Peter Seiler, at a local Wellington community center — Sparge Brewing. Rich Efird, owner of Sparge and US Army vet, also joined us to talk about his military experience and the importance of communal ties in making it as a small business.

Peter, who owns a ranch in north Wellington, created a unique family-friendly game that focuses on sharing experiences and short stories to bring people together. Top Tale is “all about storytelling,” says Peter. And what people choose to share has the potential of bonding strangers or shedding light on things you didn't know about your best friend or partner!

To play Top Tale, you pick a card from the deck and read the card's topic and caption aloud. Then provide your answer to the topic which can range from happy, or silly, to serious. Players then vote on their favorite response or play without keeping score.

“By the end of the game, after you've done all these rounds, it's not about who won the most points you just feel good about sharing stories and getting to know people.”

Topic examples: Your closest friend, and why. Best way to spend \$1M. A tale involving homelessness.

Peter says Top Tale is, “a balance of happy stories, middle of road stories, and some darker stuff because that's when you get people connecting. I've seen people laughing, crying, and getting angry because it pulls on all those emotions.”



Peter said he was always playing boardgames and wanted to be a computer game designer. After his time in the US Marine Corps, he earned his degree and started working here at HP as a computer system designer. But he still had the itch to do something fun and creative.

One day while working his ranch, Peter said he got the idea for his family-friendly game. After creating his concept, he needed a place to test it out and get feedback. So, he reached out to Rich at Sparge Brewing to see if he could play test his game with Rich's patrons.

There's reason why Peter chose Sparge as the ideal place to meet his community. “We fought for our existence on what type of bar we were going to be,” explained Rich. “We wanted to be a family friendly, kid friendly, and pet friendly. It's a very easy place to come in.” Rich said that he even hates using the term ‘bar’ but instead prefers to call it a ‘community center’.

“The youngest baby that has been in here is three days old!” They also have the largest American flag in Wellington.

Rich told us the idea of helping another small business went hand in hand with his values, stating “I wouldn't be here without small helping small.”

“We go out of our way to support small business,” said Rich. “What's always been in our DNA is small working with small, which helps promote each other, which helps spread each other's business. And when you tie the veteran-to-veteran piece in it, it was easy for us.”

ADVICE TO TAKE HOME WITH YOU

Peter says the lessons he learned in the military impact how he runs his own small business. Confidence and tenacity



MEET PETER SEILER — *continued from pg. 7*



were two things Peter highlighted. “Confidence helps you get in front of people and sell something. Tenacity (means) you don’t give up if you hit some bumps in the road, you finish the mission.”

“It’s hard starting a business, especially if it’s not something you’re necessarily super familiar with,” explained Peter. He said you also, “get what you put into it. You have to be committed to what the long-term plan is for the business.”



Rich recited an adage he learned in the service: “Two equals one, one equals none.” To him, that means putting your plan in order. “Have a backup or a spare for everything you’re doing. I’ve adapted that into this business on ‘here’s our plan, what’s our contingency?’ We want to do this but what are we going to do if that doesn’t work or if it’s not on time.”

Rich expanded on how important it is to support each other, especially our fellow veterans. They went out of

their way to stand up a veteran and first-responder group that meets the last Wednesday of every month at Sparge. Find information about this group on their website.

Rich’s idea of small helping small fits perfectly within our cooperative business model here at Poudre Valley REA. Without the small community who first banded together to help get electricity to their farms and ranches back in 1939, we wouldn’t be here today!

And Peter’s advice demonstrates the power of our community as we come together with the confidence and tenacity needed to achieve our goals, despite the obstacles we face.

We want to thank these two men for sharing their stories with us, for their service to our country, and for the small businesses they run.

LEARN MORE

Top Tale – Learn more or purchase the game online at www.yubnubgames.com.

Sparge Brewery – Find location, hours of operation, and more at www.spargebrew.com.

Read the full story at www.pvrea.coop/faces-places-voices-poudre-valley-rea-peter-seiler.

Youth Program Application Deadlines

Your co-op proudly supports our area kids and their education. Be sure to maximize your cooperative membership by applying for the following:



Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp

- Deadline Jan 9, 2023

Washington DC Youth Tour

- Deadline Jan 9, 2023

Scholarships

- Deadline Feb 6, 2023

Luck of the Draw Scholarship

- Attend and apply on April 1, 2023

Empower Grant Program

- Applications closed. Keep an eye out for next year’s deadline.

Apply at www.pvrea.coop/youth-trips



Fight the Winter Chill & Save Energy

Did you know winter months often bring some of the highest energy bills of the year? With fall temperatures here and a colder winter rounding the corner, it's important to be proactive about saving energy to help increase your home's comfort while keeping winter electricity bills in check.

1. Mind your thermostat

This is one of the easiest ways to manage your home's energy use. We recommend setting your thermostat to 68 degrees (or lower) when you're home. When you're sleeping or away for an extended period of time, try setting it between 58 and 62 degrees.



2. Button up your home

The Department of Energy estimates that air leaks account for 24% to 40% of the energy used for heating and cooling a home. Caulking and weather stripping around windows and doors in another simple, cost-effective way to increase comfort and save energy.

3. Use window coverings wisely

Open blinds, drapes, or other window coverings during the day to allow natural sunlight in to warm your home. Close them at night to keep the cold, drafty air out.

4. Consider your approach to appliance use

When combined, appliances and electronics account for a significant chunk of your home's energy use, so assess how efficiently you're using them. For example, if you're running the dishwasher or clothes washer, only wash full loads.



5. Think outside the box

If you're still feeling chilly at home, think of other ways to warm up — beyond dialing up the thermostat. If you have hard-surface flooring, consider purchasing an area rug to block cold air that leaks in through the floor.

Find more energy-savings tips online at www.pvrea.coop

NOVEMBER 2022

ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH



Source: energy.gov

Is your home heating system ready for the winter chill? One of the easiest ways to keep your system running efficiently is to regularly replace filters.

If your central air system has a furnace filter, it should be replaced about every 90 days.

If your home is heated through warm-air registers, baseboard heaters or radiators, remember to clean them regularly to boost efficiency.





Whether hanging holiday lights, cleaning gutters, or reaching high to hang a photo, ladders are a necessity for home improvement projects. However, when climbing a ladder use caution to avoid accidents and electrical injuries.

TIPS FOR ENHANCING ELECTRICAL SAFETY:

- Opt for a fiberglass, rather than wood or aluminum ladder, when working near electricity.
- Remember that no ladder is safe around electricity. To stay safe, take precautions such as wearing electrically insulated hand protection and footwear.
- Always look overhead to make sure you will not make contact with any overhead power lines, building electrical service connections, or other electrical equipment.
- Keep yourself, the ladder, and all tools at least 10 feet away from any energized equipment.

Come See Our Light Display Nov 24

We love spreading holiday cheer with our annual Christmas light display. Walk or drive through to see what's new.

Visit our office at:
7649 REA Parkway, Fort Collins, CO 80528

Rebates for Your Fall Projects

Step up your outdoor power equipment and take advantage of our rebates.

Apply for your rebate within 90-days of purchase.

Submit online at www.pvrea.coop/rebates.



Our office will be closed » Thursday & Friday, Nov 24-25

FOR THANKSGIVING. HAVE A HAPPY HOLIDAY!



NOTICE OF PROPOSED CHANGES IN THE TARIFFS & PILOT RATES OF POUDDRE VALLEY REA

Members are hereby notified that PVREA is considering changes to the cooperative's tariffs to become effective for electric billings rendered on or after January 1, 2023.

A complete summary of the proposed tariff changes is available for inspection at the PVREA headquarters, 7649 REA Pkwy, Fort Collins, CO 80528, during normal business hours or at www.pvrea.coop.

Anyone who desires to make public comment about the proposed changes shall file a written notice with PVREA prior to close of business on **Monday, November 28, 2022**, in person during normal business hours, by mail, or by emailing pvrea@pvrea.coop.

PVREA will hold a public forum concerning these proposed changes on **Tuesday, November 29, 2022, at 9am at the PVREA headquarters**. This forum is open to all members, consumers, indirect users, and the public.

At the conclusion of the public forum, the PVREA Board of Directors will deliberate and make a final decision about the proposed changes to the tariffs and pilot rate programs.