

Shad Kuenzel

Tell us a bit about yourself...

I grew up in Sturgis SD, I enjoyed the Black Hills by camping, biking, hiking & working in them. After starting my first job not with my Dad was what got me into the logging and enjoying early mornings of peace and quiet. My work brought me into Wyoming around the time that I met my wife. We were married in 2018 and lived in Wyoming for about 2 years before moving to the Tri Cities and starting with JRT. In Wyoming we had our first baby boy Douglas. After living in Tri Cities for around 2 years we had our second baby girl Jillian. And standing today we have a third on the way!

Share your work history with us.

I started working around 13 with my Dad. He had a finish carpentry business as well as lawn care and snow removal. When I graduated I worked for my uncle in the logging industry, running equipment in South Dakota black hills, Montana, Then down to the Wyoming & Colorado border. I quit logging & decided I was too young to sit in equipment & became discontent. I found a job at Red River, a welding shop in Wyoming. My job there started with grinding I-Beam & found myself disliking that & a desire to learn to weld. Welding came naturally and progressed quickly to become proficient in Mig Tig and Stick welding. I also was able to get into the power plant work while working for Red River. After Red River, I moved myself & family to Tri Cities where I now stand at the one & only Great JRT!

What job are you on now and who are you working with?

I am currently working at DariGold in the Tri-Cities. I can't even name all the guys that I work with. We have so many guys that it is hard to keep track of names.

You are in your final year of the plumbing apprenticeship. What as your school experience been so far?

can't wait to be done. It has gone by so fast & I can't really believe that it has been 3.5 years. School is nice when you have a couple of really good guys that you know and can bunk with. I almost feel like I get a little vacation when we go to Spokane. The days definitely drag a bit as I also can not wait to get home & see my family. I dislike the fact that we have not got more than a handful of Lab days & those go to the extent of standing around & talking without much really being learned as the Lab was not well set up and nothing really planned for us to do. This year seems as if it might be turning around.

What is your favorite part of your job?

My favorite part is the fact that it is something different every day or at least gets to change quick enough that it doesn't get boring. The seemingly limitless opportunity to grow & challenge yourself every day and year has been by far my favorite thing about JRT.

Describe for us what a typical day in the field is for you

Wake up at 4:30, drive the long 30 minutes to Darigold that is across the street from the last job, making it going on nearly 3 years of the same drive into work. Open the computer to get the day started & meet up with guys for announcements, stretch & flex. Get through as many emails as possible before the 8:00 job meeting, go over the schedule & find the hot spots & the day is started. 4. Try everything in my power to try to feed the guys in the field the information, material & schedule updates as well as updates of changes to plans. 5. It seems to be never ending fire fighting and a fight to get a jump ahead of the crews. Shout out to everyone for lighting a fire under my rear to prove to me that I am not doing my job right. Ron said that if I am not kicked back in my chair with feet on the desk drinking coffee and BSing then I am not doing my job correctly.



What is something about you that would surprise us the most?

I have only had 3 significant women in my life, My Mother, My Wife & My Daughter. I grew up with 4 older brothers & 4 younger brothers, no sisters & I learned on my last trip that I am the shortest of them all. Also I am much more of a morning person than I am a night owl.

What is one work related goal you have in the next year?

My one year work goal is to build a habit & skill for good time management, communication & people skills.

If your family/friends were asked to describe you, what would they tell us?

My family and friends would describe me as hard working and dedicated to finishing what you start. Kind and willing to go the extra mile to help others out. Organized in most ways.

Tell us about your family...

Having all brothers growing up made us competitive and active. I remember riding bikes to school in elementary, middle and high school. I was taught work ethic from my father as he had a lawn care business called Bruce & Boys Contracting. Mowing lawns with my brothers was one of the best memories growing up & watching them slowly get married & pass the torch to the next oldest driver of the family. I now have a brother in the U.P. MI, one in Detroit MI, one in Duluth MN, one in WaterTown SD, 4 brothers & mom and dad still in Sturgis, & myself in Tri Cities. We all try to travel and see eachother once in a while but it is getting more difficult as families are getting bigger. I hope to one day be able to get all of us together so my kids know their cousins at least. I am still growing up and now I have my own family, My wife Lauren that is originally from Tri Cities, My 4 year old son that has just started TK and loves to do everything like and with his dad, and my daughter Jillian that will be 2 in February and loves her older brother and always is pointing out babies to us. It makes us so excited for our 3rd that is on the way so she can have a baby that is always around.

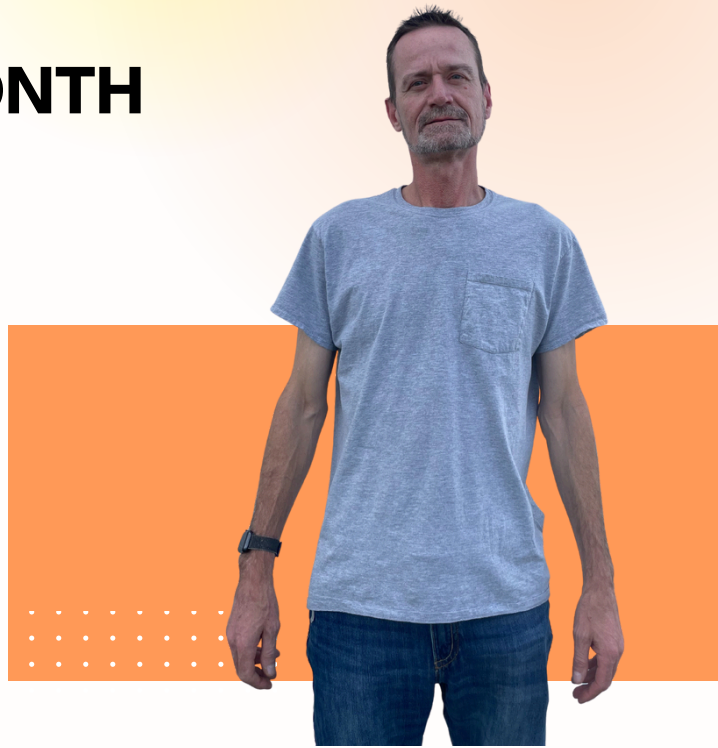
We'd like to know what you do on your off time, share a few of your hobbies / interests with us My hobbies and off time activities are bow fishing, fishing with my son, snowboarding, road trips to see family and friends, disc golf, and RC airplanes, Although I have let them sit broken I recently have been getting the itch to fly them again and get my son into it but hesitating as that sounds altogether too expensive to let him become too involved.

EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH

JERRY SAYLES

Jerry Sayles has been a great addition to the team. He is very organized and a great communicator. – Drew Lobbestael

Jerry is an amazing project manager that I love working with! I know that I can always ask him questions & he will be happy to give me answers. He is extremely thorough & works very hard to make sure his projects run smoothly. JRT is lucky to have him! – Colton Close



OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES

- Ron Bergmann- 25 yrs.
- Bruce Beard- 9 yrs.
- Eric Anderson- 8 yrs.
- Grant Blakeman-7 yrs.
- Al Kyllonen- 6 yrs.
- Steve Gonzales- 6 yrs.
- Jesus Padilla- 5 yrs.
- Gilbert Romero-Corona- 3 yrs.
- Robb Schiedler- 3 yrs.
- Nick Deotsch- 2 yrs.
- Yovanni Aispuro- 1 yr.
- Anthony Braizer- 1 yr.
- Chase Krumm- 1 yr.
- Namuna Kassaye- 1 yr.



Bring your kids into the JRT offices (west & east sides) Thursday October 31st for trick-or-treating!



Happy Birthday to you!!



**MATT JOHNSON
LUKE ERICKSON
SARAH RAINES
EDDIE ERICKSON
TODD BOUTIN
JARED DARBY
MITCHELL LUPOLD
DARA BERGMANN
ANATOLY DZYUBAK
AJ FARRAN**

**LEVITAPANI
JESUS FLORES
OSCAR GONZALES
JESSICA HUFF
NAMUNA KASSAYE
STEVEN DICKERSON
STEPHAN MORALES
SETH PHILLIPS
ELIUTH SERRA
QYNTYON MILLBRAT**

Jrt News

Congrats to Kurt Granger and Kecia Wallezer on your engagement!



Colton & Melissa Edwards welcome their first baby. Congratulations to you both on your new baby girl Briar Ann!



Congratulations Gabe Stegehuis on passing your WA Journeyman test!!



Our apparel store will be opening this month. We are hoping by mid October. A email will be sent to everyone with detailed instructions on how to place your order.



OCTOBER TIP OF THE MONTH



Here's a cool tip for putting tape on a pipe that is too tight for getting your fingers around it. Put tape on something small like this copper tube or a pencil. Makes it a lot easier. Thanks Austin Tervo.

Send in any of your ideas that we can share to increase production to Ron Bergmann 360-903-2742 (or ronb@jrtmechanical.com) If your idea is selected in a future newsletter, you will receive \$50 in cash.

Last month Kyle Charlson taught us how to take pictures in bluebeam, which also saves the picture to the correct location on the plans.



INSURANCE/BENEFITS

New Benefits Enrollment Website



Flu Shot Clinic at JRT from Vital Care



Interested in a Fall Weight Loss Challenge? Win \$\$!



HMA - COBRA



2024 Benefits Survey Winners!



SunLife Postcard

The new enrollment website that is replacing EASE is called Employee Navigator. If you have a qualified event, (marriage, baby, etc.) & need to make changes to your insurance coverage, please let Elaine know & she will send you a new link to make changes to your benefits.

Thursday October 10th from 3-6PM, sign up today!

Potential start on Oct. 5th and run through December 7th. \$40 to join - text Elaine 360-600-4137

If you received a letter from HMA that refers to COBRA, you can disregard it. JRT has hired a new COBRA administrator, called Accrue CMS & HMA was just notifying everyone about the change. Since you are a current employee, this will not affect you at all.

Winners are: Andrew Ingram // Ty hendershaw / Gerise Mezyk (see video attached to newsletter email.)

SunLife sent a postcard in the mail a few months ago. A few people have asked what this is about. The card that you can cut out & save in your wallet is for the Health Navigator Program. Health Navigator is a program that helps JRT's insurance members navigate the healthcare system & get the care they need. They are like a GPS, getting you from point A to point B, & can help you with any question you have that is health related.