



# THE BBQ FORUM

**The BBQ Forum was founded by Ray Basso just before much internet activity occurred. The BBQ Forum originally began as a small group of outdoor cooking enthusiasts, all gathering under one roof. They discussed outdoor cooking techniques, shared new ideas, and exposed each other to regional styles from across the nation. The BBQ Forum was the catalyst for a lot of friendships, knowledge, and business startup success, which has changed the barbecue industry and impacted thousands of lives, including the establishment of the Barbecue Hall of Fame. In the late 90s' to early 2000s', Mike Tucker informally partnered up with Ray, starting the first online BBQ supply store, Hawgeyes BBQ. Hawgeyes shipped BBQ forum members products and represented them as a group. The forum members' products were now being shipped across the nation. It launched more cooks into competition BBQ than any other format from back in the late 90s and on. It quickly became a place for BBQ enthusiasts to share advice, stories, and recipes.**

