

# Arizona License Plate Society

## MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

**Name:** Bruce Biemeck  
**Birth Year:** 1949  
**ALPCA #:** 7758  
**Residence:** Cave Creek, AZ



### **How did you start collecting plates? Was there someone who was your mentor?**

Both my father and grandfather removed their license plates at expiration each year and hung them on the garage wall. I got a kick out of the plate variations such as colors and slogans, as well as the reasons and politics behind the changes made each year.

### **How did you hear about the Arizona Regional?**

After I moved to Arizona I ran into Stan Rutt in Prescott and he advised me to join. Not long thereafter I received a call from Julio Abraham asking me if I would like to attend a meet. At my first meet, Julio made me feel very welcome and introduced me around.

### **What plates do you collect and which are your favorites? Where do you get most of your plates?**

I collect all years' passenger plates for Wisconsin, Illinois, Arizona, and Vermont representing the states where I have lived. I collect what I consider interesting plates from every state and I have finished my 50 state collection of such plates. I collect Massachusetts porcelains which are fascinating plates. Finally, I collect first issue plates from every state which is a daunting task. Finding good plates is of course not always easy. Over the years my sources have varied greatly. I used to acquire all my plates from antique stores but now it seems antique stores are always overpriced. eBay is certainly a source but not for the budget conscious collector. Meets are always a great source.

### **Do you have tips for newer members on the best places to acquire plates?**

The most interesting way to collect plates is hunting which can take on many forms. Garage sales, advertising, and networking your way to plates can all be rewarding and enjoyable.

### **How often do you make it to Arizona License Plate Society events?**

I attend most of the meets and miss perhaps one per year. I also attend meets in other states and the ALPCA National Convention. Meets are a great way to mingle with friends who enjoy the same hobby and perhaps pick up some plates or network your way to some plates.

### **Which plate in your collection has the best story?**

I would say my 1905 Wisconsin first issue. I networked my way to that plate from what at the time I considered the least likely source possible after truly believing I would never have one. I hunted for a first issue 1905 Wisconsin for over 20 years. Some of the most prominent collectors are still looking for the '05 Wisconsin which led me to believe it just wouldn't happen for me. Here is the amazing part of the story: within six months of acquiring the plate I found another so now I have two! I plan to trade one of them for another "impossible" plate.

### **How many plates are in your collection? What types? What do you wish you had more of?**

I have never counted my plates but I would estimate I have about 750 plates. I also don't keep meticulous cost records even though I have a financial background because I don't want to treat this as a business instead of the enjoyable hobby that it is. Besides, if I kept records, my wife might figure out just how much I spend on my beloved hobby. As far as what I wish I had more of? First issues! Does anybody out there know of any available first issues?

### **Do you display your plates?**

I display some of my plates in my garage and in my office

### **What other non-license plate hobbies do you have?**

I enjoy motorcycling, hunting, fishing, & hiking. My wife and I collect Navajo rugs, Indian items, & antiques.

