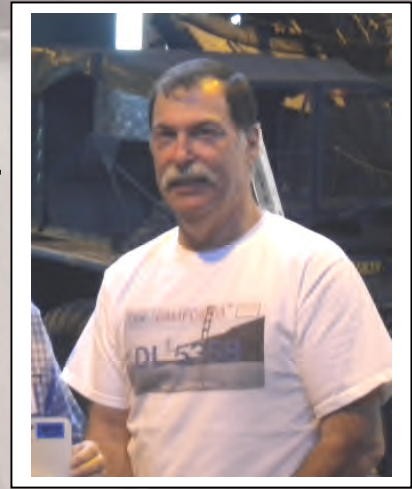


# Arizona License Plate Society

## MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



**Name:** David Lacey  
**Birth year:** 1949  
**ALPCA #:** 5358  
**Residence:** Vista, California  
**Occupation:** Semi Retired Elementary School Principal

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

I was teaching 5th grade and encouraged the children to earn extra credit on their state reports. Several brought in license plates and I thought collecting them could be fun. I met Roy Carson in 1989 and he was my mentor.

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

I met Bobby Taylor way back and attended a meet at his home. I also attended the ALPCA international meet in Tucson.

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

I am trying to complete my simple world international collection. I'm using the 195 country rule, so I need a dozen to complete the world. I get most of my plates from ALPCA members. I've also traveled and picked up some on my own. At this point my North Korean plate is my favorite.

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

Making connections works the best. I carry a business card with my info on it. On the back I've listed the plates I need. Tell everyone you meet that you are a plate collector. People have old plates in their garage that they will give you when they hear you are a plate collector.

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

Rarely – I am working on this.

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

One of my Kuwait plates. A military dad of two students at my school ended up in Kuwait during the first Gulf War. As a major, he had rank. And his groups moved into Kuwait City to liberate it, he asked a PFC to throw a tow chain on an abandoned car. They dragged it about a half mile, then took the plate and kept going.

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

I have about 700 plates in my permanent collection. I have many US plates going back a while plus at least one from every country except for 12. I'd like plates from the "stans"; Turkmenistan, Tajikistan, etc.

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

All of my plates are displayed in my garage. That's a lot of tin hanging on the walls and rafters, but it's still standing

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

I belong to the Society of Creative Anachronisms (SCA) which focuses on medieval history and combat. I do target archery with the SCA and help with siege weapons. A friend and I built a Chinese Repeating Crossbow, which I shoot for fun.