

Arizona License Plate Society

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

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

I started collecting plates when I was five years old. At the time, some of the breakfast cereals were giving away miniature plates inside the boxes that were about three inches long, and were embossed painted metal. I tried to collect all 50 states. It wasn't long before I wanted the real thing. My first plate was a black California plate, with a lone blue 1967 sticker, found in a field in Southern California at a 4th of July fireworks show in 1968. I was hooked after that, and started to get plates from my friends who had moved from out of state, from garage sales, swap meets, and along side the road. I collected plates until the end of high school, and then stopped for about twenty years because I did not have a source for plates, and was not aware of any clubs or organizations.

How did you hear about the Arizona Regional?

I met Dave Pinter when I started a new job in Arizona in 2000, and I heard him talking about license plates, and he even brought some into work to show people. He told me about ALPCA, and recommended that I join before 2003, so that I could go to the national meet in Tucson. I took his advice and was completely blown away at that meet, seeing more plates in one place than I had in my entire life. I was also very surprised at the variety of ways that people collected plates: state runs, birth year runs, foreign countries, government/municipal, graphics, etc.

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

I primarily collect Arizona and California plates and am working on runs for those states. Besides working on the state runs, I also collect some graphics and foreign countries, because you've got to have something to do while you're waiting to find that next hard-to-get county plate!

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

ALPS meets are my best source for plates, and that is where I would recommend newer members start out. The deals will often be better than eBay, you can see what you are buying, and you can get good advice and knowledge from the club members. Plus you can't beat the food!

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

I usually make it to the two Tucson meets each year and I will try to make it to more meets in 2008.

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

I have about 300 plates in my collection (not counting Arkansas dealer plates!). Most are Arizona, California, and graphics (I like birds and nature scenes). I wish I had more 1914 Arizona plates (any). I don't have a favorite plate yet.

Do you display your plates?

I have a display of some plates in my hobby room, mostly a mix of different states, from the 70's through the 90's. These are grouped around a map of the U.S., and ties into one of my other hobbies, amateur radio. When I make more progress on my AZ run, I will likely display the early years.

What other non-license plate hobbies do you have?

Besides radio and license plate hobbies, I also enjoy hiking.

