

Arizona License Plate Society

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



Name: Bill Lujan
Birth Year: 1966
ALPCA #: 9649
Residence: Tucson
Occupation: Neurologist

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

I started saving license plates on my family's cars growing up. My grandfather gave me a couple of old California plates but I really started collecting in 1999 when I moved back to the U.S. from England.

How did you hear about the Arizona Regional?

I bought a plate from an ALPCA member, who asked me if I knew the National convention was in Tucson (in 2003). I didn't know it was here, and finally made it down there on the last day and joined ALPCA. Shortly after that, I was contacted by the Arizona Regional, but didn't make it to a meet until 2004.

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

I like new graphic plates, especially from the Western U.S promoting the outdoors. My favorite plates are the U of A plates (I'm an alumni, twice). I used to get a lot of plates from Ebay, but it's harder to get newer plates there now, so I get most of my plates at ALPS meets.

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

I am a new member too, but the ALPS meets are great for plates (and buying "live" saves shipping charges which can add a lot to the price of plates).

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

I've only made it to three meets in the past, but I'm trying to get to at least 3-4 meets a year now.

Which plate in your collection has the best story?

When I moved back to the U.S. in 1999 and was living in Ohio, I wanted a U of A themed plate. The plate "AZCATS" was already taken, but a nice lady at the DMV suggested "4AZCATS" and I took it. I was lucky to snag that when I moved back to Arizona and I've kept it on one of our vehicles since.

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, at least one from every state and a few international (European) plates. Primarily my plates are new graphic plates. I'd like to have more optional graphic plates from the western U.S.

Do you display your plates?

I have most of my early collection up in my old garage, but I moved 2 years ago and haven't gotten around to putting any up yet. I'm negotiating with my wife for some wall space in the garage.

What other non-license plate hobbies do you have?

I have a small collection of road signs from the U.S. and a few from Europe. I also collect University of Arizona memorabilia.

