

# Arizona License Plate Society

## MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

**Name:** Mike Zollo

**Birth Year:** 1960

**ALPCA #:** 7757

**Residence:** Las Vegas, Nevada



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

I started with ONE from each state. My first license plate was Oregon (early 1960's base) which I got in August 1972. From that point, I started to collect license plates. I never really had a mentor, I was brought into collecting due to moving between California and Colorado in April 1971 and I started to notice and see all the different license plates on the cars. I really like that Colorado changed their plates every year at the time and California was using the stickers which really made me want to get more into the license plates. Especially that all the other states were different colors and styles made me think that an ideal thing to do would be to have these different license plates. However, I never thought about that until about a year and three months later moving back to the San Jose, CA area again and I decided to collect license plates. From that time on I was well into collecting all through the early 1970's to the present day. Mostly U.S. plates and some from other countries as well.

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

I was informed through the ALPCA Magazine spotlights on meets in the area within a five hour drive from Las Vegas. Also, with the help of the NILPS magazine. A few collectors in the area where I lived (both San Jose and Las Vegas) told me about those meets.

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

I have a variety of all plates in different series, I have a birth year run (1960) but I'm still working on that. I have my 50 original United States series (finished in 1985) and I branched off to all US plates series. Most of them are from California (still working on that). I also have anniversary series (all the plates from the 100<sup>th</sup>, 150<sup>th</sup>, 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of becoming a state, etc. – still working on that as well!) I usually get most of my plates from some of the meets in the areas of CA, NV, and AZ and sometimes even local swap meets in the area.

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

I would have to say it really depends on what you are looking for. I would go to some of the local meets in the area as well as swap meets and antique stores.

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

About 2-3 times per year.

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

The 1939 World's Fair California License Plates, I spent a while looking for that one. I got that in 1985 at a flea market in the San Jose area. I always wanted that one. It took a lot to find that plate. Not being in any of the license plate collecting clubs at the time, I got that plate from someone selling old antique signs from the 1940's and 1950's (like Coca-Cola, Pepsi, and Dr. Pepper) and that person said having that license plate in his storage for many years that someone gave to him about 20 years earlier and no reason to keep that plate so that person decided to sell it and I got it for my California state series.

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

About 500, I have all the plates in alphabetical and date order by states and some countries, I would like to have some of the porcelain, anniversary, embossed, waffle-based, and the fiberboard plates.

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

Yes – I have about half of my collection on peg boards and the rest in boxes right now.

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

I collect city and state street maps from all years.