

Arizona License Plate Society

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

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

My interest in license plates started at an early age. My parents say that I learned to read letters and numbers from observing license plates. I would walk up to cars in a parking lot and recite all of the plate numbers I could find. I got my first set of plates when I was around four years old. My dad had a '79 Datsun pickup with '73 base non-commercial Arizona plates. In 1991 the State mailed a new maroon 'cactus' plate to replace the '73 pair. Not too long after, the pair was displayed on a shelf in my room. From that point on, friends and relatives would send me their old plates when they sold a car or received new plates, and my collection grew. I wouldn't say that I ever had a mentor when it comes to plate collecting, but everyone I know has been supportive of the hobby.

How did you hear about the Arizona Regional?

I received a flyer in the mail for an ALPS meet not too long after I joined ALPCA

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

I haven't narrowed down my collection to any specific state, year, or plate type. I enjoy having a variety. My favorites have to be the 90s-era Kansas and Missouri plates that were given to me by my relatives who lived in Kansas City. I get many of my plates from friends, family, coworkers, and other acquaintances. The rest come from ALPS meets or antique stores.

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

It never hurts to ask. You'll be surprised at the number of people who have license plates lying around at home and don't find any value in them. I've received several free plates over the years, just for asking. Otherwise, plate meets are a great place to find a variety of plates, many for a great price.

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

I've tried to make it to every ALPS meet since I joined ALPCA.

Which plate in your collection has the best story?

I took my dog for a walk around our Tempe neighborhood a couple years back. My dog did his 'business' and when I opened a dumpster to dispose of his waste, I found a decent 2012 expiration Colorado plate on the top of the garbage. If my dog had chosen to do his business elsewhere, I would not have found that plate.

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

I have 40 or so plates, most are just standard regular issues. I also have a trade box of plates... some duplicate types and others that don't really "stick" with the rest of my collection. I've thought about concentrating on a specific plate type or even doing a birth year run. I guess I'm not sure where to go next (I'm always open to ideas!)

Do you display your plates?

Yes, I am currently working on a new display for a wall in my house

What other non-license plate hobbies do you have?

I enjoy traveling, playing the drums, collecting 1:200 scale commercial airplane models, and working on my 1976 Chevrolet C20 truck.