

# Arizona License Plate Society

## MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

**Name:** Justin Mattes  
**Birth Year:** 1978  
**ALPCA #:** 6748  
**Residence:** Cape May, New Jersey  
**Occupation:** Freelance Writer / Owner of Baby Name Poems Unlimited



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

I started noticing different types of plates on the road, especially New Jersey types. I got my first sample plates in 1993 and joined ALPCA in 1994. I went to my first meet in Yorktown Heights and members just gave me some advice about collecting in general

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

I heard about the region through Plates Magazine and have met Clark Wothe at many conventions and corresponded with him through e-mail and text messages

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

I collect wheelchair plates from the US and other countries like Mexico and even the Cayman Islands. I also collect older non-passenger plates from my home state of New Jersey

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

Plate meets and the conventions are great to find plates, I have filled in some good holes in my collection during meets. Also the big car show out in Hershey brings out a lot of neat stuff

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

I have never made an ALPS meet, but I hope to change that soon. The only time I've been out west for plates is the 2008 ALPCA Convention in Salt Lake City, Utah

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

While not rare the best plate story I have comes from one of ALPS own members, Justin Beus. I wrote a poem for his son and in return he sent me a Arizona ham radio wheelchair sample plate. I have since wrote poems for other members and they have given me plates

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

About 400 wish I could complete the wheelchair run and since I live in New Jersey, I'm working on a NJ non-passenger run. It is a collection that has been twenty years in the making

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

Yes I have a small wheelchair motorcycle display in my bedroom over a few hooks that you can see when you walk in the door. I have limited space in my room so I don't see adding more anytime soon

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

My main other interest is communications, I have been listening to police scanners for over twenty years. I got my amateur radio license callsign KC2GIK, in 2000. I also have been writing poetry for a number of years and have even traded plates for poems. I also maintain my own website:  
<http://www.justinmattes.com>