

Arizona License Plate Society

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Name: Matt Klahn
Birth Year: 1973
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Occupation: Account Executive

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

I started collecting plates when I was about 7 years old growing up on our Family Farm in Michigan and later Oregon. My Father was my Mentor as he gave me his collection of Michigan plates from 1913 to the 1970's. I always enjoyed exploring Barns and Garages looking for plates and my Father was very supportive of the Hobby always bringing home plates that he would find. In 3rd grade I did a display of Michigan plates in my Classroom as we were studying Michigan history. My Mom and I spent many hours preparing the best condition plates washing and waxing them for that display.

How did you hear about the Arizona Regional?

I contacted Clark Wothe when I was living in Oregon approx 8 years ago and wanted a weekend in sunny Arizona in November as it had been raining in Portland for almost 90 days straight. I had a great time at that meet and really appreciated the hospitality of Clark and the rest of the Arizona group.

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

I collect plates from all over the world, I focus mainly on Latin America, Europe, Asia and the Caribbean as these are countries that I enjoy traveling to hunting plates. I prefer to focus on areas that I have a personal interest in. I get most of my plates traveling abroad, plate meets and trades.

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

Yes, try to get out and travel as much as possible to somewhere you may want a plate from, ask around for plates and of course plate meets.

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

I try to make it to 3-4 per year. I would make all of them except the drive to Tucson is a little bit far for me.

Which plate in your collection has the best story?

I obtained quite a few Croatia, Serbia and Bosnia 1991 War era plates during my travels there to Croatia in 1991-1994 assisting family in Croatia that were going through some very tough times then. For example the town of Vukovar had 3 different plates within a 3 year period, the Red Star Yugoslavia plate, later a Serbian plate with Flag and finally the Croatian plate with the beautiful crest.

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

I have around 15,000 plates from all over the world. I collect all types especially Latin America, Europe, Asia, Africa, and the Caribbean. I would like to have a run of plates from Haiti (I currently have 75 different plates) at present as well as certain other Caribbean and Latin American countries.

Do you display your plates?

Yes, I display certain plates in my Garage but always need more space.

What other non-license plate hobbies do you have?

I enjoy Hiking, Travel and Vintage Volkswagens

