

Arizona License Plate Society

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



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

I've always collected something. As far as plates are concerned, as a youngster we vacationed on Cape Cod every year and watching for and writing down different out of state plates was a must. So I guess I've had somewhat of the bug for over 65 years. Of course my mother was a collector of "stuff" so that might have something to do with it also.

How did you hear about the Arizona Regional?

While living in Massachusetts most of my life, in fact North Attleboro where I believe ALPCA has its roots, I would attend shows occasionally. I especially remember some of the Connecticut shows. So when moving to Arizona it wasn't too difficult to find shows, especially in the computer age.

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

Until recently I have not had any real specialty interest. My wife is from Chile so about 15 years ago I started collecting certain Chile plates. I (we) have about 150 Chile plates some of which are tough to find now. Ecuador plates are of high interest however they are scarce. I also like Arizona booster plates but got into that a bit late. I have a favorite number from years ago, so certain plates bearing my number 521 get my attention.

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

I think that the computer age has made it easier to find desired plates. Meet are good not only for the plates but meeting and talking to other collectors. You never know where a good plate might show up: A gun show, western accented shows, antique malls, car shows, auctions, etc. Also, ALPCA has a great magazine where you can place your wants.

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

For many years I was inactive with plates. I just had too many other things going on. But now I try to make about three or four meets per year.

Which plate in your collection has the best story?

I'm afraid I don't have any exciting plate stories to tell you. I have a few favorites. A 1910 Mass 521 and an I. DE PASCUA (Easter Island) & J. FERNANDEZ (Robinson Crusoe Island) from Chile that are both in new condition, never been on a vehicle. Also a nice plate from Ft. Sill Oklahoma field artillery school where I spent time while in the Service.

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

I probably have about 250 plates in all.

Do you display your plates?

I display most of the Chile plates in my garage and a few odd plates in the house.

What other non-license plate hobbies do you have?

Part of the reason plates are not at the top of my hobby list is because I collect so many other things. Beer steins, certain types of sugar bowls, advertising toothpick holders, postcards from my hometown, South African ginger bottles, South American and American stoneware beer bottles. Hometown milk bottles, KT&K and Minnehaha antique quart whiskey jugs. Some English preserve ceramic jars, milk glass flasks, seltzer bottles, rocks, etc. I also enjoy off roading and especially bird and landscape photography. Total insanity!