

# Arizona License Plate Society

## MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

**Name:** Jim Carden  
**Birth Year:** 1960  
**ALPCA #:** 11720  
**Residence:** Portage, Michigan and Sun City, Arizona  
**Occupation:** Retired Letter Carrier / USPS



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

I saw a 1917 Pennsylvania plate in an antique mall and liked the look... and that's how it all began!!  
(No mentor). I've been collecting about 30 years.

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

We live in Michigan 9-10 months a year and I'm a snowbird in Arizona the other 2-3 months. I joined the Arizona club and started attending meets.

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

I'm working on a run of all 50 states and DC prior to 1920. Alaska's oldest plate is 1921. All I need to complete the run is Alabama and Hawaii. 1938 and 1954 Michigan are also favorites.

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

I acquire plates at meets, auctions, estate sales, antique malls, car shows, swap meets, and on Ebay. There is a balance between all of the above on how I get most of my plates.

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

I attend all Arizona meets I can each winter when we are in Arizona when the meets are scheduled.

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

A rare one of a kind 1938 Michigan 40/8 plate. It represents 40 men or 8 horses in a French boxcar during World War I. Our doughboys were transported to the front lines in the boxcars. Earlier this year I acquired the plate from a Michigan Club member and good friend.

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

I have approximately 500 license plates that are mostly older than 1940 from every state. I do especially like Michigan and Arizona plates. I wish I had more pre-1920 Arizona original paint license plates.

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

I display my plates in a three car garage and a double length two car garage along with my porcelain and tin sign collection.

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

I run a senior golf league, race go karts, deer hunt, workout at the gym, collect baseball and football cards, landscaping, and traveling around the country.