

Arizona License Plate Society

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Name: Joseph Hurd

Birth Year: 1960

ALPCA #: 1925

Residence: Chicago and Arlington Heights, Illinois

Occupation: Educator (Mathematics)/Coach (Retired IT Professional)



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

I started collecting shortly after moving to Illinois from Beaumont, Texas. My father was hospitalized with a serious back injury when we moved here. While with him at his hospital bedside, I started writing different DMV's across the US, asking for a sample license plate (this was the common "new collector" thing to do in the old days!). Vermont actually sent me an expired license plate - I had mentioned in my handwritten letter that I seldom see Vermont license plates on rural IL roads. My mentors were/are Charles N. Wilkinson (#1730), of upstate New York, who I still haven't met, and the late Gordon Hewitt (#667) of Aurora, IL. I learned about ALPCA via an ad in Yankee Magazine, in the swapper's column.

How did you hear about the Arizona Regional?

I am a regional meet enthusiast and keep current on the pulse of ALPCA.

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

I'm into 50's and 60's vintage plates, Australian license plates, and Caribbean license plates. I acquire license plates for my collection and trading through an exhausting and stunning array of sources. Many of you own plates that used to belong to me.

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

Yes – go to meets! Develop (over time) connections with everyone you can – plates do come up – you have to go out and search, not just expect them to show up at your doorstep.

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

I try for at least one, and possibly two meets yearly. It's a long way to fly from Chicago! School lately has been requiring me to stay closer to home on weekends.

Which plate in your collection has the best story?

Every plate has a story. How about my North Dakota 1915 #2? Or former Notre Dame President Ted Hesburgh's Indiana #1 license plates, for the years I went to Notre Dame? My low # IL plates (I have 6247 and 4108) on my cars also have some wild stories. Don't get me started; you know I'm a talker!

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

Not many are actually collection material for me – about 500. All exotic domestic and international issues that serve as collector icons constitute the collection. No real wishes at the moment – I've owned all the glamour license plates I've wanted to own.

Do you display your plates?

I have never displayed license plates anywhere in my living quarters in the 35 years I've belonged to ALPCA! It's quite sad...(get out the tissue)

What other non-license plate hobbies do you have?

Vintage Corgi diecast toy cars (they are a classic), road maps. Many may not be aware that I play in three volleyball leagues – including two beach teams. I enjoy sports and play/participate in four sports, along with coaching three of them in the high school I teach at.

