

Arizona License Plate Society

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



Name: Richard Validis
Birth Year: 1963
ALPCA #: 4802
Residence: Henderson, Nevada
Occupation: Accountant



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

I started collecting plates when I was 5. I would go to the local wrecking yard with my brothers when we lived on Long Island – New York. While most kids were riding bikes, I was pulling plates off the wrecked cars. From there it snowballed into a full time hobby. Roy Carson introduced me to many ALPCA members and we went on many plate hunting trips together.

How did you hear about the Arizona Regional?

I attended the Arizona regional meets when I traveled with Roy Carson.

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

My plates interests are foreign plates. I now have a plate in my collection from every country, island, territory and principality worldwide. My collection contains international plates dating back to the 1890's. I get most of my plates in trades, plate meets and travel to various countries. One of my favorites is a plate from Kish Island, Iran that I obtained while on a trip to the Middle East in April 2005.

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

I recommend to new members to attend as many meets as possible, wrecking yards and travel to a jurisdiction that you would like to get a plate from.

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

I attend the Arizona meets about twice a year

Which plate in your collection has the best story? The best story is a cast aluminum diplomatic plate from Romania that I acquired in 1989 when visiting Bucharest during the fall of Ceausescu. As I was removing this plate from a bombed car, machine gun fire was approaching me. I got the plate off before being hit by a bullet.

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

I have about 6000 plates in my collection. Most of them are foreign plates. I wish I had more of the pre-1945 world plates.

Do you display your plates?

I have a display in my garage and in a guest room in my house. I wish I had more space.

What other non-license plate hobbies do you have?

Besides collecting license plates, I collect highway route number signs, state line and international border signs, World Bank notes and coins, electric house meters and antiques.