

# Marilyn and Al Snyder

“I Never Met a Corvette Owner I Didn’t Like” - Marilyn Snyder

“Guys, gals, older folks, and most people I talk to think my Corvette tattoo is pretty neat,” says Al Snyder, “especially the people who are into cars and Corvettes. They ask me, ‘Did it hurt?’ and ‘How long did it take to do it?’ If you’re wondering, it only took about an hour and a half to do.”

And what does Marilyn, Al’s wife of 15 years, think of the tattoo? “She says she likes it a lot; it’s very cool just like her husband,” Al replies with a boyish laugh. “A number of years ago we decided to drive down to Kentucky and ended up at the Corvette plant. Marilyn and I got interested in Corvettes, and now we’re on number seven.”

“We have had five C4s, one C5, and one C6,” says Marilyn. “Out of the C4s, one was green, two were white, and two were black. The C5 was black, and now we have an ‘05 in Daytona Sunset Orange Metallic. All of the cars have been convertibles. We would never buy a Corvette with a hard top. We are just convertible people.

“The C6 was so different to drive than

the other Vettes we’ve had,” Marilyn continues. “It has a smoother ride, and it’s much more comfortable with more leg room. The car has a nice engine, so it goes pretty fast. I love the speed. I like to take off and get in another lane without any cars behind me. It does have performance, and it’s a pretty looking car.”

Growing up, Al had a car at age 16 and was into convertibles. His first car was a ‘60 gold Catalina convertible, followed by a big Buick. “In high school I had a ‘66 GTO convertible that I had to give up because I couldn’t afford it. Now it’s worth some big money, and I sure wish I had it.”

Marilyn was the youngest daughter of four children, all of whom loved to hang around their father, watching him maintain the family car. “He could take the entire engine out of his Ford Fairlane and put it back in. He liked the inside guts of cars, although boats were his favorite.



many miles I drove. My friends and I would go to Crystal Lake or Carpentersville, and he was never aware of it.”

Marilyn remembers becoming aware of Corvettes in her late teens and liked the looks of the car. “It was the only car that appealed to me, and of course I could tell people, ‘Oh, that’s a Corvette.’ ”

Marilyn and Al recently drove around Lake Michigan with the North Shore Corvette Club as part of a 20-car cruise with 10 couples. “We spent nights in Wisconsin, Canada, and Michigan,” says Al. “It was during the fall and the weather was great; we put on 800 miles and had a blast. This September we went on a weekend tour up to the Wisconsin Bluffs in the La Crosse area, again with the North Shore Corvette Club. We met groups from Minnesota and Wisconsin and ended up traveling 140 miles with 300 Corvettes. We all stopped at one place for lunch and took up the entire parking lot! What a great time!

“Corvettes are a blast to drive,” Al says. “CNCC is a fun club, and the meetings are nice and short compared to other clubs. As the years go on we’ll be able to get things together. I think we’ll be a huge club if the economy stays all right.”

*Above: Al and Marilyn’s Daytona Sunset Orange Metallic C6 was photographed for a calendar at Bloomington-Gold. At left: With grandchildren Sarah, PJ, Nathan, and Allison.*



Years later, my father let me have the car thinking I would be going to a girl friend’s home. Actually it was a little fib because I knew how to take the wire off the odometer so he would never know how

Marilyn agrees. “We belong to several Corvette clubs that are fun because of the friendships we make and the trips the clubs take. The only time you get to meet and know people better is on weekend trips or a four-or-five day trip. The group stops at a bar at night, and you make nice friendships.”

Has Marilyn or Al had an unexpected surprise while driving one of their Corvettes? “About four years ago I was driving my Corvette east on Dundee Road, east of Waukegan Road,” says Al. “It was early in the morning and still a little dark. I just happened to look up in my rear-view mirror and saw a deer jump over the rear of my vehicle. I was going about 35 mph; it scared the heck out of me.”

Marilyn’s unexpected surprise is that she has never received a speeding ticket in spite of having somewhat of a lead foot. “I’ve been lucky over the years.



When an officer stops me, I never lie; maybe I just look innocent. I’m honest and say, ‘Oh, I didn’t realize I was going that fast.’ It’s been a long time since anyone has stopped me, but the last two times I was told to have a nice day after my talk with the officer.” Could a guy get away with the same thing? “Probably not,” she says, “my husband never does.”

Outside of Corvettes, Marilyn and Al have four grandchildren – two boys and

two girls – who are dear to their hearts. Allison is seven, Sarah is six, PJ is one-and-a-half, and Nathan is three months old. The two girls live out of town, so the Schniders try to see them as much as possible, and the two boys are here in the Chicago area.

As far as advice for his fellow Corvette owners, Al admits to not being a mechanic “so my advice to others who aren’t mechanics is to get one. I do all the cleaning basically and take it wherever I can for an oil change.”

Marilyn says you don’t have to be rich to own a Corvette. “I’ve told people in their 20s that it’s not that hard to afford a Corvette. You don’t need a brand new one because they are great used. The auction at Bloomington Gold has some really good deals, and they are all nice cars.

“I like Corvettes. It’s just a fun time to drive them, and we drive ours all year round.” ●