



Above left: Janine Woodsford, of the Village of Springdale, has a unique background, which includes roller derby competitor, working as a certified motorcycle mechanic and serving on motorcycle and race car pit crews. **Above right:** Woodsford skated with the Bay Area Bombers during her roller derby days. Photo by Susan Bensch and submitted photo / Daily Sun

Springdale Villager wheels and deals

Janine Woodsford's past careers might surprise her friends

The Mix North
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By Susan Bensch

Janine Woodsford, of the Village of Springdale, likes to keep things rolling.

Before moving to The Villages in late 2011 with her husband, Bob, Janine lived and worked on wheels.

Roller derby competitor, certified motorcycle mechanic and car racing pit crew chief are some of Woodsford's roles that might surprise her Villager friends.

"The thing I talk about most right now is that I have eight beautiful great-grandchildren," she said.

The Woodsfords, who also have eight children and sixteen grandchildren, spent about two years living on wheels before moving here. The couple sold their home in Las Vegas and took to the road in their recreational vehicle.

"It was great, because we would just travel in a circle and visit all the grandbabies and great-grandbabies," Janine said.

Moving in Other Circles

In the late 1960s, Woodsford traveled in circles on wheels, but at that time it was on roller skates as a competitor for the Bay Area Bombers and Midwest Pioneers roller derby teams.

"Very few people know about the roller derby," Woodsford said of those who know her today.

At the time, the Woodsford family lived in San Jose, California. Janine skated in the evenings and took part in regional competitions.

"It was a blast," she said.

Woodsford started doing roller derby because a friend had dared her. She went to a training school before taking to the rink to be prepared and learn how to minimize the chance of injury.

“The most fun, I think, was probably the audience,” she said. “I was trained to skate red shirt, which is the bad guy. So we’d kind of aggravate the audience. That was a lot of fun to get them riled up.”

From Riling Audiences to Repairing Engines

Woodsford got her hands on a different type of wheel when the family moved to Fallon, Nevada, in the mid-1970s. She and Bob owned a motorcycle shop there for about five years.

Janine said she wanted to gain more clout in the shop by learning more about the vehicles.

“The guys wouldn’t talk to women – we weren’t educated enough to know anything about it,” she said. “So I took training and became a certified motorcycle mechanic.”

Woodsford said she enjoyed becoming more conversant with and accepted by the clientele.

“That meant a lot to me,” she said.

The shop was a true family affair. The children learned how to help with the work.

Bob and the couple’s five sons also raced motorcycles on the weekends, with Janine and their three daughters pulling pit crew duty.

Back to the Racetrack

The lure of the racetrack called again for the Woodfords when the family returned to Nevada after living for three years in northern Idaho.

Janine began working in real estate and went on to advertise her services as “Realtor to the Racers” on the back of two race cars she bought.

Bob and two of their grandsons raced nearly every weekend alongside Kyle and Kurt Busch at Las Vegas Motor Speedway.

Janine was the pit crew chief for both of the cars.

“Bob’s (Legends) car ran on a Yamaha 1300cc motor, which is a motorcycle engine, and the Bandolero ran on a Briggs and Stratton, so I was able to work on both of those,” she said. “I owned them and fixed them, and they drove them and broke them, and they told me that was a 50/50 deal.”

On Track in The Villages

The Woodsfords settled into their Village of Springdale home in January 2013 after renting in several villages for about a year.

It didn’t take long for Janine to become active in the community.

She was elected president of the Springdale East neighborhood club just two months after moving into the village, and now is serving her second year in the post.

She and Bob are active in the Community Emergency Response Teams, which draws on earlier experience the couple had as volunteer emergency medical technicians in Idaho.

Woodsford truly is glad to call the community home.

“I love The Villages,” she said. “There isn’t anything I don’t like.”