

Carol Bickford

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| Full Name: | Carol Ann Bickford | Hometown: | Vallejo, CA |
| Birth Date: | December 29, 1946 | Resides: | Concord, N.C. |
| Marital Status: | Married to John Bickford | | |

Carol Bickford is the mother of four-time NASCAR Cup Series champion, Jeff Gordon. An integral part of her son's life both on and off the race track, Carol is truly a "racing mom."

Jeff was racing BMX bikes at the age of four. Carol thought that form of racing was too dangerous so she and Jeff's step father, John Bickford, purchased quarter midget race cars for Jeff and his sister, Kimberly.

Although his sister didn't have the "racing bug," Jeff quickly demonstrated that he had an innate talent for driving. Carol raced Jeff in those quarter midgets on a track that was configured in their backyard in Vallejo, Calif. -- and she has been along for the ride ever since.

By age 12, Jeff had won about everything there was to win in Quarter Midget and Go-Kart racing and was ready to advance to the next level. Not able to driver bigger, heavier cars with more horsepower at that age and without a driver's license in California, Carol and John moved the family to Indianapolis where Jeff was able to race Sprint and Midget race cars.

Carol and John were by Jeff's side as they traveled around the country competing in races in various series. Jeff amassed many wins and championships in short track, open-wheel competition and it was again time to advance.

When Jeff decided that NASCAR was going to be his career path, John and Carol picked up and moved to the hub of stock car racing in the Charlotte, NC area without hesitation.

Carol is now co-author of the cookbook "Pit Stop in a Southern Kitchen" with another famous "racing mom," Martha Earnhardt, Dale Earnhardt's mother, Dale Earnhardt Jr's grandmother. Through the many years of traveling weekends to race, the one thing that the family looked forward in the time they spent at home was Mom's home cooking.

Aside from supporting Jeff in his racing career and her endeavor into becoming an author, Carol is also a business owner. Carol and John have owned MPD Racing since 1976, a company located in California that sells racecar components. Carol is also a co-owner of Sweet Grass, a retail store that sells furniture and accessories in Mooresville, NC.