



# Cruisin' News

April 2014

President – Clay Seachris  
Vice President – Bob Schmeichel  
Treasurer – Jayne DeBoer  
Secretary – Marilyn Haper  
Newsletter Editor – Susan Seachris

## Season Needs “Choked”

By Clay Seachris

President's message

This spring has been one of the hardest starting seasons I remember. It's been another one of those winters where the rods have stayed parked since fall. Recently, Susan and I drove the '56 Chevy one Sunday afternoon and evening and then the snow and ice hit, again. As I was thinking of this message, the idea that many of us don't have our chokes hooked up because they're not needed in good weather came to mind. Too bad we can't just choke the season and get it started. Every spring I tell everyone to use these cold weather memories as motivational fuel and keep those times in mind on hot summer days when an afternoon nap seems like a good idea. Keep in mind, that in a couple short months your cruising opportunities will be dormant once again. So, get out and enjoy the rumble, the handling and the smiling thumbs-up that only a cool hotrod offers.

As we transition again from relaxed winter meet-n-eaters to on-the-go summer cruisers, please reflect upon how blessed we are to have so many friends that make our winters just as much fun or maybe even more fun than our summers. This club is fortunate to have so many awesome people hosting parties, supporting each other emotionally, sharing ideas, working on hotrods, organizing social gatherings, sharing time participating, and exchanging laughs and stories. I try to say it often, “Thank you for being Great Plains Street Rodders, you and your friendships make this club so enjoyable.”

Please keep in mind if you haven't given our treasurer, Jayne DeBoer, your membership renewal fee, please do so. We like to have all the renewal fee deposits and membership directory tracking taken care of before the actual cruising season begins. Thanks again.

The Siouxland Car Council website [siouxlandcouncil.info](http://siouxlandcouncil.info) schedule is revised as events are shared. As always, for online newsletters and lots of photos, go to our website [greatplainsstreetrodders.com](http://greatplainsstreetrodders.com).



Get out your bag chairs, sunscreen and detailing supplies, we'll be enjoying the weather soon. © 2013 Weinie Roast at Roe's



## *A Garage Car No Longer*

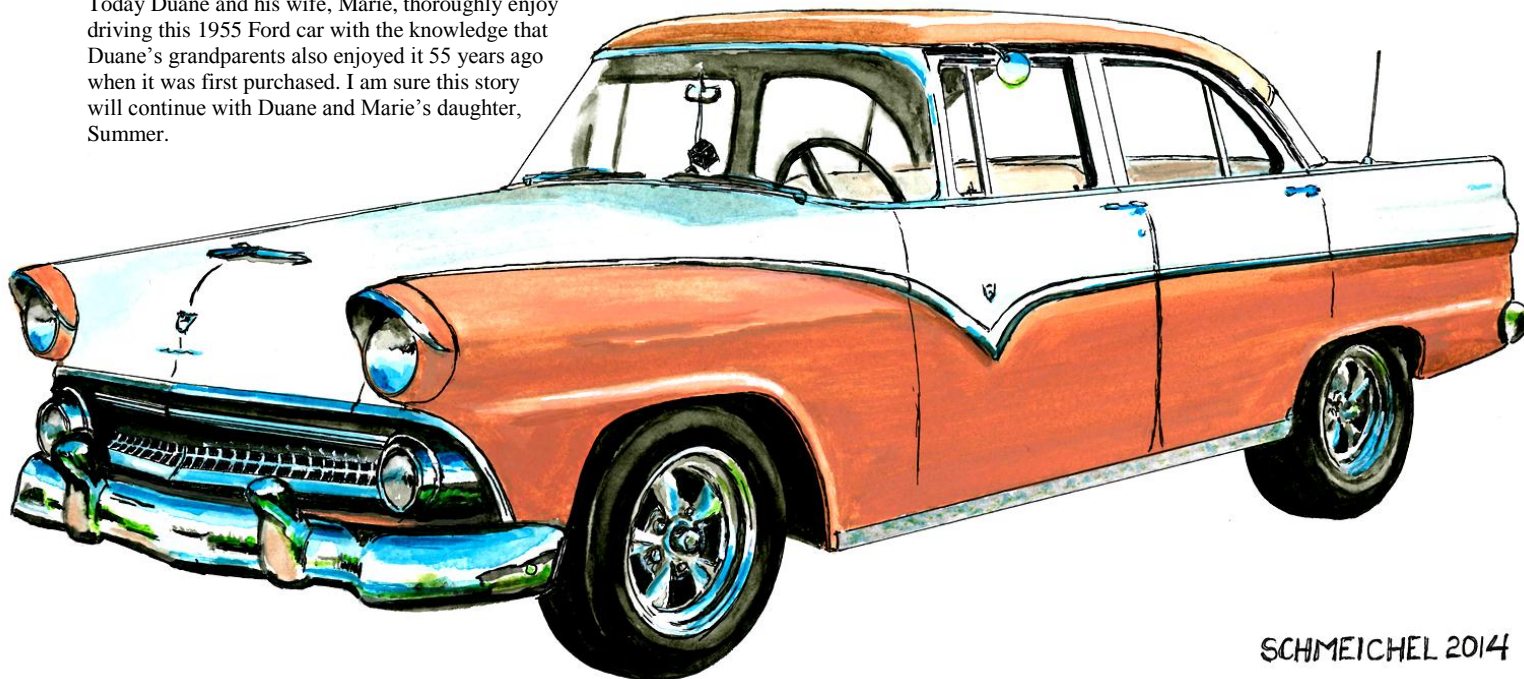
By Bob Schmeichel

Sometimes it seems kind of funny the small things we remember from our younger years in life. I relate to them in a “noun” sort of way, even in my older age, as being a person, place or thing with time relevance. Whatever it was that made an impression on us then, taught us life lessons while they happened and stuck with us forever. These remembered little things in life helped shape us into the driven individuals we are today. Myself being older, from the baby boomer generation, I can honestly say we learned to entertain ourselves with nothing compared to kids today who are bored if they don’t have a smartphone in their hands every moment. I find it kind of sad that there is always such narrow focus of attention constantly like a drug addiction given to something held in your hand that you text with your fingers instead of verbally talking through. Face-to-face social skills are being lost. I wonder how today’s kids would have handled waiting for an opening on a “party-line” phone to verbally talk to someone 50 years ago. I remember thinking my parents were old fashioned when I was a kid, but thinking back 50 to 60 years ago, we were more impressionable growing up with having less and the times being so much more innocent, which made the little things and moments more dear to our hearts. Because of today’s shift of attention and the abundance of information overload, I feel really good about the articles of car club members and the paintings of their rides that I do. I look at my challenge each month as putting down a little bit of history for the children and grandchildren, so their connection to the past is not forgotten in a small sort of way. There is kind of an under lying irony of the my older generation who grew up with very little, and now with some being looked at as borderline hoarders collecting things we would have liked when we were younger but couldn’t afford then. I used to hate history but now I can’t get enough of it, probably because of the freedom of information act followed by technology that is advancing faster than most can comprehend or care about. There is a sad side too because the science part of how we got this technology is not being understood along the way and being lost in the processes of advancements growing ever faster.

I might be narrow minded to say that cars and pickups were a big social connection of my generation, but they were and still are to us today. Back then boys learned at a young age how to work on and maintain whatever they chose to drive, which was projected as a part of their personality when cruising around in it. In high school, boys discovered girls about the same time as cars and the socializing began. The scene was cruising around listening to music on the radio and ending up at a malt shop, or any of the drive-ins to visit and eat something, to a sock hop at school or dance at the coliseum, or to a drive-in movie, to a roller skate or ice skate rink, riding bikes, football and basketball games, to the fair, to the beach or lake, or to a favorite quiet spot to make out for hours under the moon light. It was all pretty much face to face every place you went back then. Today it is the phones that make all the connections for the kids and cars are not a big whoop or as important. Because newer cars are getting more technically advanced all the time as well as being more costly, kids today are engrossed in technology more than four wheels. With things the way they are today and myself being in what I would call a dying breed of car lovers, I’ll cut to the chase and get to this month’s feature car story.

Duane Roger’s grandparents bought a 1955 Ford 4-door sedan in 1959. It was the last car they had and drove it until they both passed away. Duane’s uncle inherited the ‘55 Ford and stored it in a garage for 30 years until 1997. Duane’s uncle, realizing he wasn’t going to do anything with the ‘55 Ford, passed it on to Duane. After getting the car home, Duane tucked it away in the corner of his garage where it sat for another 2 ½ years until the fall of 1999. Duane decided it was finally time to do something with the car that had sat more in a garage than it was driven. He started by taking the interior out, doing some minor rust repair, and converting the car to 12 volts. Next came the removal of the old engine and transmission and the installation of a 351-cubic-inch Ford engine and a C-4 automatic transmission. After the engine and trans were dialed in, he drove the car for a couple years to make sure he had all the bugs out of the car. He found out that a car that has sat in garage for a long period of time can have more deterioration issues than one that is driven. The brake lines, fuel lines and gas tank were all replaced. Once Duane was finally satisfied with the way everything worked, it was taken to Greg’s Restoration in Ellsworth, Minn., for a repaint job of the original colors. After getting the car back home with the outside looking like new again, Duane decided to freshen up the interior. Finding original style and type of material for a 1955 Ford of that era proved to be fruitless, so using other material that was close in appearance and color, the car’s interior was finished soon thereafter.

Today Duane and his wife, Marie, thoroughly enjoy driving this 1955 Ford car with the knowledge that Duane’s grandparents also enjoyed it 55 years ago when it was first purchased. I am sure this story will continue with Duane and Marie’s daughter, Summer.



SCHMEICHEL 2014



## *Behind the Wheel*

By Karen Roe

Everyone recognizes this good-looking couple as they are president and “first lady” of the Great Plains Street Rodders, Clay and Susan Seachris.

Growing up in the Spirit Lake resort area, Susan enjoyed outside activities with her three sisters and brother. They often went swimming, boating, skiing and in the winter, skating and sledding. The one outdoor activity that Susan has not been able to embrace, though, is camping. Says Susan, “When we were dating, Clay thought it would be fun to camp out in the Lewis and Clark Recreation Area. We slept in a tent – on the hard ground.”

Clay adds, “There was a thunderstorm that night and we ended up sleeping in the car, ‘cooking’ in temperatures that probably stayed in the 80s all night.”

“That was the end of my camping experience,” states Susan with firm resolution and a smile.

Clay’s sister is eight years older, so growing up, he spent most of his time with his brother who was close in age. In high school, his main focus was sports – football, basketball and track.

“My parents divorced when I was ten. I lived with a single mom and there wasn’t a lot of money so I had to work if I wanted anything like designer jeans. All through high school, I cooked and washed dishes at the Country Kitchen. Later, I did about everything you can think of.”

Clay’s first college degree was in teaching biology, but he nixed that and went on for a business degree. Arriving in Sioux Falls, he began as a personal trainer but ended up in the banking business. Currently, he’s an accountant and program associate for the Sioux Falls Area Community Foundation, helping to manage money for various special projects, scholarships and endowment funds that support many Sioux Falls area charities.

Clay and Susan met when she worked for Western Bank as a teller and he worked for an armored car company. “He’s kinda cute,” thought Susan one day when Clay walked in the bank. They began conversing and their relationship evolved from there. Later, Susan enjoyed working with the Sioux Falls Convention and Visitors Bureau for 11 years, but then took a hiatus as a marketing representative/graphic designer at Avera Health Plans. She is now back with the Chamber as an accounting assistant, helping to plan and execute events such as the Farm Show and the St. Patrick’s Day parade.

Evenings, when they’re not street-rodding, the Seachris’ exercise in their home work-out room listening to 80s music. When her “buff” husband tries to offer advice as a personal trainer, though, Susan admits that she rarely listens and “keeps on doing her own thing.”

Susan’s favorite hobby is scrapbooking, which she does with her sister, Lori, every Monday evening. She also enjoys reading and in the summer, cultivating peppers and tomatoes in her small salsa garden.

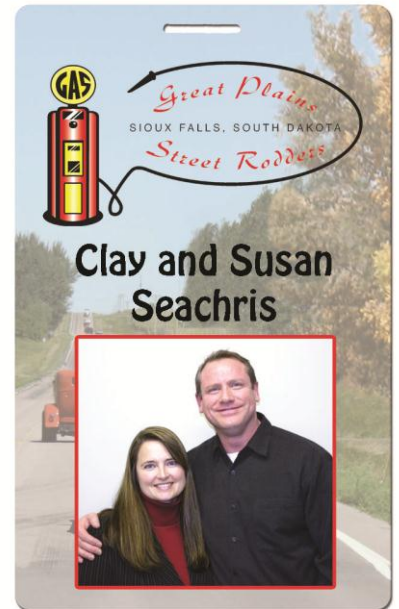
Some of their favorite street-rodding events include Back to the Fifties. “I like the mom-and-pop vendors, there,” says Clay. They also look forward to the Heartland Nationals held in Des Moines during July. One of their most memorable events was Clay’s brief stint as Mario Andretti at the Kansas Motor Speedway. Three fast laps around the steeply-inclined track in their Cobra were exhilarating moments for the driver – maybe a little less for his breath-holding passenger.

The Seachris’ enjoy traveling and have been snorkeling at several island locations. One of their favorite trips was to Jamaica where they were accompanied by a few other couples. They stayed at an all-inclusive resort, which featured many fun activities including snorkeling, dance classes, and of course, eating. Susan hopes someday to visit the Great Barrier Reef off the coast of Australia.

Their high regard for one another is evident in the teamwork that Susan and Clay provide for the club, but it also extends to their personal lives. “Susan puts up with a lot of my hobbies, supporting me even though they might not be her favorite things to do, and always does it with a smile.”

Susan responds with, “I like Clay because he is such a caring person. He’ll do anything for other people. He’ll do anything for me. He’s just a wonderful, caring person.”

As a club, we appreciate their many efforts and look forward to joining them in street-rodding events of the future. We promise, Susan, that any overnight events will involve a motel, or at the very least, an air mattress, pumped up and ready to go. We street-rodders take care of each other.





## Sympathy Offered

Winterfest of Wheels began six years ago with a donation to Cure Kids Cancer, in honor of Dave and Karen Leisinger's great-niece, Jordyn Olsen, who was diagnosed with cancer in 2007. On behalf of all the Great Plains Street Rodders we express great sadness that cancer took young Jordyn's life on March 20.

## Winterfest's 2014 Gift

Winterfest organizer Karen Leisinger recently presented this year's proceeds of \$30,287 to Cure Kids Cancer. WOW shared that plans for next year are underway.

The Leisingers' share a public thank you to their great sponsors, vendors, volunteers, car exhibitors, and celebrity guest for making this such an outstanding year: Dakota Digital, J&L Harley-Davidson, Apex Performance, Straightlines Custom Restorations, Results Radio, Sanford Health, and Peyton List. Also, a thank you to all that attended!!

## Congrats Retirees

After 46 years at Builders Supply Company, Jules Haper retired on March 28. Jules said he is looking forward to traveling.

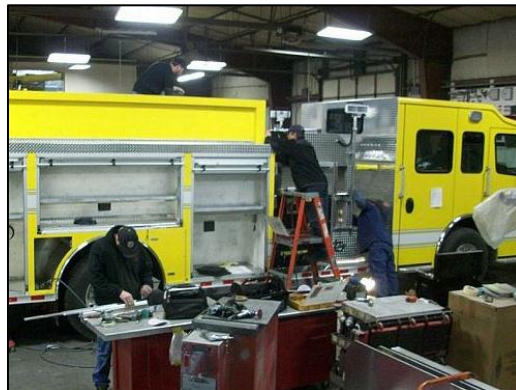
Jerome Miller retires on April 11 after 25 years of service on the Sioux Falls Police Department. Jerome's wife, Robin, is also retiring. Happy retirement!

## Behind the Wheel

This month Karen Roe starts her latest writing endeavor titled Behind the Wheel. Through the years we've enjoyed her short stories. Now she'll be visiting with members and compiling a series so we all may know each other better. Friendships continue to strengthen our group. Thank you, Karen.

## Fire Truck Maker Tour

On Saturday, May 3 at 10 a.m. Doug Walker has arranged a Rosenbauer Fire Truck Facility Tour. Rosenbauer is the world's largest fire equipment manufacturer in the world. One of their eleven manufacturing facilities is in Lyons, which employs 270 people in a 120,000-square-foot production area. The Lyons facility produces a full line of apparatus including pumpers, tankers, rescue vehicles, aerials and specialty vehicles.



## NSRA Inspection Day

The Annual NSRA Inspection Day is May 3, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Renner Garage, Renner, SD. The process is free and only takes a few minutes. The event is fun. Bob Schmeichel is one of the volunteer inspectors and they're all helpful guys. These volunteers follow NSRA Safety Inspection guidelines and also share years of experience to help you have a safe season. The inspections are only advisory and not a legal clearance.



## April Birthdays

(2nd half)

Patt Anderson	16
Lana Kullander	16
Mike DeBoer	17
Christina Jellis	18
Mark Bowers	20
Gary Jorgenson	21
Dianne Moore	22
Bob Van Noort	23
Joyce Aurit	26
Sandy Peterson	26
Kent Reilly	27
Jackie Heemstra	28
Carolyn Hood	29

## May Birthdays

(1st half)

Bunny Brady	2
Cheryl Van Noort	5
James "Jim" Kuhle	6

## April Anniversaries

(2nd half)

Dean and Joyce Gough	17
Grant and Linda Geister	18
Art and Bev Umland	20
Don and Helen Jensen	21
Les and Mary Ramstad	24
Derrick and Sarah Stokes	26
Don and LaDell Mertens	28

## May Anniversaries

(1st half)

Kent and Terri Reilly	9
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## Dates Are Mid-Monthly

The two-month birthday and anniversary schedule is listed from the 15<sup>th</sup> to the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month.

## Cruise to Brookings

The annual Cruise to Brookings is Saturday, April 26. Meet at the Flying J at 12:30 p.m. We should be in downtown Brookings to eat at Nick's Burgers and/or shop about 1:15 or 1:30 or so. A tour is set up to walk the 173 steps to the top of the Campanile chimes tower on SDSU campus. *Hotrods optional.*



# Spring Cruising...Blast from the Past



Butch and Deb Yesda followed by Rick and Betsy Petersen cruising to Nick's Burgers, Brookings back in 2012.



Bob Schmeichel's '40 Chevy from 2006. The 2014 NSRA Inspection Day is May 3, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at the Renner Garage.



Don Jones, Jules Haper and others back in 2006. The 2014 Spomer Classic's Show 'n Shine is May 24, 10:30 – 2:45, Worthington, MN.



Gary Ebright cruising to Brookings in 2012. The 2014 Cruise to Brookings is Saturday April 26. Meet at the Flying J at 12:30.



Terry Jellis with his "deuce roadster" at the 2012 St. Patrick's Day Parade with Miss South Dakota, Jill Furan.





## Photographs and Memories by Tom Olsen

I'm a car guy and veteran Great Plains Street Rodder from Sioux Falls who developed an interest in cars in the early 1960s, and that passion has been with me all these years. Each month I'll share a picture or two in the newsletter and will offer a short narrative on each for your enjoyment. While I'm primarily a Chevy guy, I'll do my best to mix things up a bit so everyone sees something they might enjoy.



## Porky Hog

I've been doing this column long enough it's probably time to poke a little fun at myself. Here I am in 1964 with my 1958 Triumph Herald 4-door sedan; my pride and joy at the time! My dad had taken it in on trade for a boat at Olsen Marine, and I was without wheels, so this fit the bill. It had a minute 4-cylinder engine with a 4-speed transmission. I installed a Sun tachometer I pirated out of a used boat and for about \$1.00 in gas I could drive most of the week. Of course, gas was around 25 cents a gallon at the time...

One of my friends mockingly named it "Porky Hog," and my favorite observation was, "It might be ugly, but it sure is slow!" Porky served me quite well for nearly a year; right up until I plowed into a herd of sheep that were all across Highway 81 in the middle of the night. Shortly after that I moved up to a '56 Chevy wagon. (Thank you, sheep!) Joyce and I think we've spied one of these out on West Madison Street, and Joyce thinks I should check and see if it could be bought. I'm wondering: why?

## Historical Great Plains Street Rodders Documents

Feb. 4, 1986

TO ALL THOSE INTERESTED:

The next meeting of the GREAT PLAINS STREETRODDERS will be held SATURDAY FEB. 15, 1986 at 4:00pm. We would urgently ask everyone to attend.

Location- Elmwood Apt. Complex (705 N. Elmwood Ave. behind Sport Bowl)  
Party room in 1 story building in middle of the complex.

Items to be addressed

1. Sign up for membership and collect dues
2. Start committees for help on the Midwest Mini-Nationals in Sioux Falls June 12-15, 86
3. Discuss T-shirts and/or jackets- colors, logos or other suggestions
4. Set calendar for future meetings

PLEASE COME AND VOICE YOUR OPINION SO YOU CAN BE PROUD OF WHAT WE MAKE OF THIS NEW ORGANIZATION AND PUT SOME FUN BACK INTO IT'

Very Sincerely,

Bob  
Bob Schmeichel  
361-1932

GREAT PLAINS STREET RODDERS 1986

MAILING LIST

BARSTAD/Loren	1940 Cardinal Dr.	57103	335-8581
BENSON/Ed	3912 Downing	57106	361-1717
BULTJE/Mervin	3012 S. 10th Ave.	57105	334-4657
CHRISTENSEN/Jim	7504 Pine Lake Dr.	57103	334-2373
CHRISTIANS/Elmer	Renner S.D.	57055	334-2146
DYBVIG/Dick	Box 154 AA Baltic	57003	529-5796
DYCE/Roy	Baltic, S.D.	57003	529-5727
GILBERT/Caldwell	705 N. Elmwood	57104	336-7739
HARDY/Bob	Box 81 Harrisburg	57032	743-2894
HOHN/Evert	Box 32 R R1 Renner	57055	339-0198
JENSEN/Vern	404 N. Duluth	57104	332-0981
KING/Wayne	RR1 Box 133A Parker	57053	297-3577
LARSON/Bernie	6309 W 46th	57106	361-0212
LUNSKI/Ray	4008 E. 7th	57103	332-6314
MEENDERING/Jeff	202 W. Garfield Inwood	51240	712-753-4564
SCHADE/Paul	2908 E. 19th	57103	334-2509
SCHMEICHEL/Bob	5713 Essex Dr.	57106	361-1932
SCHREIVER/Bob	RR3 Box 41	57106	361-6557
SLETTEN/Paul	RR2 Box 92 Beresford	57004	372-4688
SORUM/Dean	Renner S.D.	57055	334-5659
STAUFFACHER/Larry	2105 S. Bahnson	57103	371-1932
TYSDAL/Ron	RR2 Box 37	57103	338-0991
WIBETO/Larry	1312 Joliet Ave.	57103	338-5881



## Meet-n-Eat Schedule and Siouxland Car Council Schedule

Every May we join with everyone at the Wednesday Night Cruises coordinated as a member club of the Siouxland Car Council. Please join us. Guests are welcome. We are a family-oriented club, we encourage the next generation, so children are also always welcome to all our events.



### 04/16/14 **Hy-Vee Deli - Sycamore**

1601 S. Sycamore Ave., Sioux Falls, SD

### 04/23/14 **Hibachi Supreme Buffet**

1100 West 41<sup>st</sup> Street, Sioux Falls, SD

### 04/30/14 **Harris Burgers**

106 E. Willow St., Harrisburg, SD

### 05/07/14 **Dareo's**

2929 S. Minnesota Ave, Sioux Falls SD

### 05/14/14 **Pizza Ranch, East 10th**

3809 East 10<sup>th</sup> Street, Sioux Falls

### 05/21/14 **212 The Boiling Point**

323 S. Splitrock Blvd, Brandon, SD

### 05/28/14 **Lower Sherman Park – Potluck**

805 S. Kiwanis Ave, Sioux Falls, SD

### 06/04/14 **Terry Koch Race Shop**

26846 469th Ave, Sioux Falls, SD

### 06/11/14 **J&L Harley Davidson**

2601 W. 60<sup>th</sup> Street, Sioux Falls, SD

### 06/18/14 **Handy-Man Cruise Night**

910 E. 10th St, Sioux Falls, SD

### 06/25/14 **Children's Home Society, Root Beer Float**

**Social** - 801 N. Sycamore, Sioux Falls, SD

### 07/02/14 **Cruise Night - Empire Pontiac host**

Sherman Park, 805 S. Kiwanis Ave, SF, SD

## Recipe

### Sangria

*From the kitchen of Susan Seachris*

1 bottle (750 ml) cranberry wine (I have used cabernet sauvignon and chardonnay, so I think any wine will taste good.)

12 oz. Old Orchard's frozen concentrate of cranberry pomegranate blend (Welch's raspberry cranberry tastes good, too.)

1 cup orange juice

½ orange, sliced

½ lemon, sliced

Stir together, refrigerate for 2-4 hours. Add 1-liter bottle of 7-Up before serving.

## Recipes Needed

Every month I'd like to include a recipe or two for those members who want to spice up their meal plan. I know we have some fantastic chefs in our club who bring tasty dishes to all our potlucks. If I don't receive any recipes, I'll pull something out of my recipe box or off the internet to put in the newsletter. Either way it will be a crap shoot because I don't always follow the recipe exactly, so I can't remember if the recipe was better with or without my alterations. ☺

Please email your recipes to [president@greatplainsstreetrodders.com](mailto:president@greatplainsstreetrodders.com) or give your recipes to me, the "first lady," at the next cruise night.



**Classified Ads**  
(FREE to All Members)



**FOR SALE – 2008 Ford Taurus SEL 4 door**, alloy wheels, AM-FM-CD 6 disc player, auto on floor w/console, leather bucket seats, keyless entry, vanity mirrors, power steering, power brakes, a/c, cruise, near new tires, Sun roof, Exceptionally Clean, never wrecked, clear title, always adult driven, Mom quit driving, (time to move it), Second Owner (my parents), 34,500 miles, Recent trip averaged 26-27 MPG, NADA is \$13,275.00, Make Reasonable Offer, Contact Jerome Miller at 368-2418



**FOR SALE – 1947 Blue Ford Club Coupe**, 302 Ford balanced motor with a B&M 144, Pro-Charger, AOD Ford transmission, Ford 9" rear-end with Richmond 3:55gears, A/C and heat, P.S., louvered and flamed hood, painless wiring, stance is right, fast, reliable, tight Coupe. \$34,800. Contact Bill Kullander 605-366-1158 kullbill@sio.midco.net



**FOR SALE – 1965 Mustang GT** 289 c.i., 4 barrel, automatic. I have the factory air (complete I think) not sure if it works. I also have a factory power steering which like most units today should be overhauled before installing. Also have radio, mirrors, hood hinges and other spare new and used interior parts. This is a real GT and is a solid daily driver. Asking \$17k for this and parts. Chuck Robertson, 605-951-2459, chuckr327@gmail.com



**FOR SALE – 1970 Buick GS 350 Skylark**, Rebuilt 350, auto, posi. Bench seat and interior very good shape. Very straight body, small rust through lower right front fender and trunk. Needs headliner and heater core with box. Drives very well with super rubber and correct Buick wheels, trim and bumpers excellent. \$6,750 Eric Anderson, Spirit Lake, Iowa 712-380-4969



**FOR SALE – 1971 TX400 Snowmobile**, If interested call Keith Schmuck 507-227-1430.

**FOR SALE – Chevy 350 ci Goodwrench Engine** only about 20,000 miles \$500 Call Doug 605-351-5599

**FOR SALE – 1967 Buick Riviera GS.** Good running 430, console auto and posi. Floors good, as is trim and bumpers. Headlights even rotate. Body very straight, interior buckets vinyl cracked and brittle. Missing drivers door panel. No room, no time. \$950 Eric Anderson, Spirit Lake, Iowa 712-380-4969



**FOR SALE – 1989 Buick Reatta**, 3800 with auto, 106,000 miles on this good runner- just drove it from Princeton, MN (240 miles) with no problems. Good rubber, trunk looks like new, interior a wee bit faded. Headliner needs to be reglued (sagging) and needs a muffler. Right wiper arm bent. No room for winter. \$1,500 Eric Anderson, 712-380-4969



**FOR SALE – 4L60E Transmission** 1994 Chevy, Completely rebuilt, \$650, Call Doug 351-5599

**FOR SALE – 1947 Chevy 2-Door Sedan**, All original, Stored inside for years, Very Solid hotrod project. Glenn Walker 336-7070