



L-R: Joe Mueller, Chris Reiner, PR Olson, Todd Woods, and Bryan Davis



Tailgating at a NASCAR race.

# Tailgating isn't just for football...

Todd Woods and his friends have been making an annual trip to Kansas City for NASCAR races since 2001. Most of them are from Yankton, but they pick up a friend in Omaha on their way down. They arrive in the morning, around 8 a.m., and Todd starts cooking breakfast as the rest of the crew proceed to set up camp in the parking lot.



Ladder golf, bean bag toss, talking to fellow tailgaters or checking out that day's sports section are a few of the past times while they are waiting for the race to start at 1 p.m. Todd commented, "Tailgating really is the best part of the event. We meet new people from all over the area and they are very friendly."

There is seating for around 82,000 people and the infield has space for 750 motor coaches, each accommodating as many as 10 people.

"You meet so many different people and it's hard to explain how friendly everyone is, from the people in the stands to the people in the parking lot. Some of them are real race fanatics as to how they dress. We usually wear our favorite driver shirts and hats, but nothing too extreme," said Todd.

They've had a lot of good memories down there. It's always kind of exciting to witness a crash and they've seen numerous ones, but the 2008 race was a highlight of all the years Todd has been there.

"Jimmie Johnson and Carl Edwards were racing for the win on the final turn. Edwards was going too fast and ran up in to the wall and Johnson went on to win. It wasn't a spectacular crash, but it was probably the most exciting race we have seen," said Todd.

The only bad memories came from vehicle problems on the way down to the race. Flat tires and vehicle breakdowns on the last two trips slowed them down a little, but they still made it in time for the race. In 2007, there was a rain delay, which ended the race earlier than usual, because it was too dark to continue. Otherwise, they've been pretty lucky on their journeys.

As mentioned, they cook breakfast burritos in the morning before the race. Food at the event is a little on the expensive side, but

really no different than at other sporting events. They DO allow you to bring small coolers into the stands so that really saves some cash.

Once the race is over, they fire up the grill again and make burgers and brats and hang out until around 8 p.m. The parking lot is fairly empty by then and they don't have to fight the traffic, if they stay, eat and talk amongst other fans.

"It's always a great time and we look forward to it every year," said Todd.

## WOODS' BREAKFAST

- 1 1/2 dozen eggs
- 1/2 cup milk
- 1 lb. pork sausage
- Shredded cheddar cheese
- Salt and pepper or seasoning of your choice
- Salsa
- Tortilla shells

## PRE-TAILGATE PREPARATION

At home take your 18 eggs and mix them together in a bowl with your milk and whatever seasoning you wish. Put mixture into a food saver bag and seal the bag (zip lock works too, but be careful in transport).

## TAILGATE COOKING

Using a grill or campstove, heat up your skillet and fry up the pork sausage until brown. Shake the egg mixture bag to prevent any separation of the eggs or milk. Once sausage is brown, pour your egg mixture into pan. Stir eggs occasionally to mix in sausage and prevent burning. When eggs are about done, take out your tortillas shells and warm them on top of the eggs as they are cooking. Scoop up your eggs and sausage onto the warm tortilla. Add cheese and salsa, if desired.

You can use plates and plastic silverware, but none are required.