

CLUB NEWS

NASCAR driver, team owner visits KM Rotary

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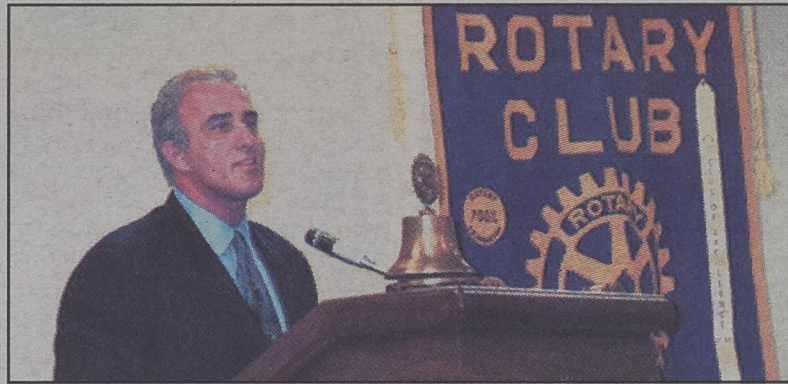
A special treat was "flagged in" for Kings Mountain Rotarians at their Thursday meeting. NASCAR driver, Winston Cup Quest Motor Racing team owner and TV analyst with Fox Sports Net, Derrike Cope, presented a program of some of his memories on and off of the track.

Rotarian Jim Testa had invited him to speak and Cope gave due credit to Testa and Rotarian Carol Warner for helping him in his fast-paced pursuit to NASCAR fame. But his first dreams were not of the finish line.

As a young man, Cope aspired success as a professional baseball player. In high school, he was being scouted by the Chicago Cubs and the Baltimore Orioles. But his father insisted that he take the scholarship offered to him by Whitman College. In 1978, while he was playing catcher on his college team, his dream was cut short. "He went to retrieve a wild pitch and when he turned to throw back to the base, his knee gave way," according to information released by Cope. "It turned out that the medial collateral and anterior cruciate ligaments were severed," as were his chances of a future in baseball.

"During his recovery, he helped his brother with his race car. Derrike's father was an engine builder for some of the best drivers in Winston West competition. This led Derrike to be interested in racing and after driving a few times, came up with the conclusion that racing would be his new career," according to www.derrikecope.com

Although, Cope has literally "hit the wall" a few times over the years, his determination and skill led him to two Rookies of the Year, 248 career Winston Cup



EMILY WEAVER/HERALD

NASCAR driver and team owner Derrike Cope presented a program at the recent Rotary Club meeting in KM.

starts, and quite a few championships. After starting at 71st place, he won the Daytona 500 in 1990. He also won the Budweiser 500 in Dover, Del., that same year.

In 2000, Cope formed his own team, Quest Motor Racing, with NHRA driver Warren Johnson. Testa and Warner provided financial backing and encouragement. "Warner and Testa did a lot for me," Cope said.

He told the Rotarians that they, like many teams, started with about five-seven employees and now have over 400.

The sport of stock car racing, which began with moonshine-hauling bootleggers trying to outrun the law during the prohibition era, has come a long way. There's no more "mountain dew" tucked in the floorboards, but Mountain Dew and alcoholic beverage companies do sponsor the racers. And the races, themselves, have been renamed, such as the Sprint Cup, which was once the Winston Cup and then, the Nextel Cup.

Cope said that when Testa came on board they were racing with 600-horsepower engines.

Today's cars are propelled with 900-horsepower engines.

When asked how he feels about cup drivers racing in the nationwide series, he said that he likes it. "It's imperative to race against better people to become more proficient," he added. And about racing, "It's a great way to make a living, feed your family and enjoy your life."

ENGAGEMENT



CAJA ORMAND AND JENNIFER GREER

Greer, Ormand to exchange vows Oct. 4

Larry Greer and Judy Greer, both of Shelby, announce the engagement of their daughter, Jennifer Ann Greer to Caja Ross Ormand, son of Lloyd and Barbara Ormand of Kings Mountain.

The wedding will be held October 4, 2008.

The bride-elect is the granddaughter of Eva and the late Robert Steadman of Chester, SC, and the late Thomas and Evelyn Greer of Lenior. She is a 1994 graduate of Shelby High School and a 1998 graduate of the University of South Carolina, where she received a

Bachelor's degree in athletic training and sports administration. She also attended Cleveland Community College for radiography and graduated in 2006. She is employed at Cleveland Urologic Surgery.

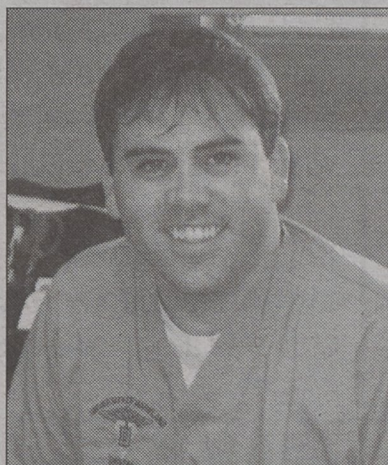
The groom-elect is the grandson of Florence and the late Robert Davies of Kings Mountain and the late Lloyd and Leona Ormand of Kings Mountain. He is a 1993 graduate of Kings Mountain High School. He attended UNC-Pembroke and Erskine College, where he played baseball. He is employed by Schneider Engineering Corporation.

The Cleveland County Health Department

is Pleased To Announce that

Dr. Paul McMurry, DDS

Has Joined the Staff of the Dental Program



Dr. Paul McMurry

Dr. McMurry serves as the primary Dentist for the department. Dr. McMurry received his Bachelor of Science Degree from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and his Doctor of Dental Surgery from the University of Maryland, Baltimore. Dr. McMurry has been a practicing Dentist in Shelby, North Carolina for more than a year.

Dr. McMurry and the dental staff at the health department are accepting patients ages 0-21 years of age.

Appointments are available by calling 704.484.5260.

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