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Opti - Topics

August Evening Meeting



A rather small turnout of 11 Optimists assembled at the Blue Plate Café for our regular Club meeting this evening, but we had a lot of guests so our meeting room was fairly full and kept our server busy. Our guests were Annie Sandusky, a prospective member brought by Tom Casteel, plus Dan Mitchell, husband of our speaker, and Col. Roger McCreery, father of one of the students who assisted our speaker tonight.

Opening

President Vastell Williams called on Rev. Jim Berry to bring the opening prayer, and Jim also led us in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Announcements

Zone Vice President Alfred Adams announced that the District Meeting will be held the last weekend of this month in Southaven, MS.

Program



Our speaker this evening was Mrs. Teri Mitchell, teacher and sponsor of Challenger Middle School's Greenpower race team.

Club meets
1st Thursday
At 6:00 p.m. at Blue
Plate Café

3rd & 4th Thursdays
At 11:45 a.m.
Optimist Recreational
Center

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Supporting her with setting up for her PowerPoint presentation was her husband, Dan Mitchell, and four of the students who were on her Greenpower race team last year. She was introduced by Clyde Nevins, Chairman of the Club's STEM Grant Program.

Mrs. Mitchell began by thanking the Club for the \$1,500 grant which was used to partially pay for the expenses of sending her Greenpower race team to Indianapolis, IN, last spring to participate in "The Inaugural Greenpower Indy Race." She was enthusiastically assisted by four of the team members who participated in the event.

Mrs. Mitchell next described their race car. All Greenpower race cars must start with the same kit, which dictates the same batteries, motor and tires. Beyond that there are restrictions on length and width. The Challenger car employed a nose fairing and rear-view mirrors that were made by 3D printing.

Mrs. Mitchell described the brief, but very eventful trip to Indianapolis last spring. The two race cars and 20 students left Huntsville early on Sunday, April 30, arriving in Indianapolis in time to tour the Indy Museum that displayed Indy race cars from the early days to the present time. A bus ride around the Indy track gave them the history of the Indy 500, including how the original track was paved by bricks. They were able to set up the garage for their race car in the same garage used by the Indy race cars—with their team name posted outside, too.



Following a night in a local hotel, where they met members from many of the 27 participating teams (high schools and middle schools) from the U. S., England and Scotland, they returned to the track for the racing events. They raced three times on the Indy Grand Prix track (see diagram) which incorporates the straightaway and finish line of the larger track.

The objective of each race was to make the most laps in 1½ hours, using three drivers (requiring two pit stops). The three races were:

- Qualification runs
- Race # 1
- Race # 2

Between race # 1 and race # 2, teams were allowed to “tweak” the setup of their cars.

At the end of Race #1, the Challenger Eagles team was in 3rd place of the 8 Middle School teams, trailing rivals Whitesburg Middle School and Madison County School. As a result of some modifications, they were able to edge out Whitesburg Middle School, finishing 2nd in the Middle School category. Mrs. Mitchell displayed their award (see photo section). Their award was presented in the Winner’s Circle of the Indy track. Following tradition, they kissed the original bricks at the finish line. They then left for Huntsville, arriving about home about 3:00 a. m.

In answer to some questions, it was learned that Greenpower race cars weigh generally close to 100 pounds and can travel up to 27 mph. Going that fast, however, drains the batteries faster and does not end up as a winning strategy. A speed of 18 to 24 mph is the norm. The team found out that driving skill and driver weight were about equally important for a winning car.

Closing

President Vastell had to leave the meeting early, so V. P. Jim Roe gave our speaker a tile with the Optimist Creed, and asked a student, Kaden McCreery to draw a name for our attendance prize. Byrom Goodwin missed out (2nd week in a row!), so Tom Casteel took the prize on the second draw.

Tom led the Club in reciting the Optimist Creed to close the meeting.

Clyde Nevins

Optimistic Quote of the Week

“Winning has nothing to do with racing. Most days don't have races anyway. Winning is about struggle and effort and optimism, and never, ever, ever giving up.”

~ Amby Burfoot

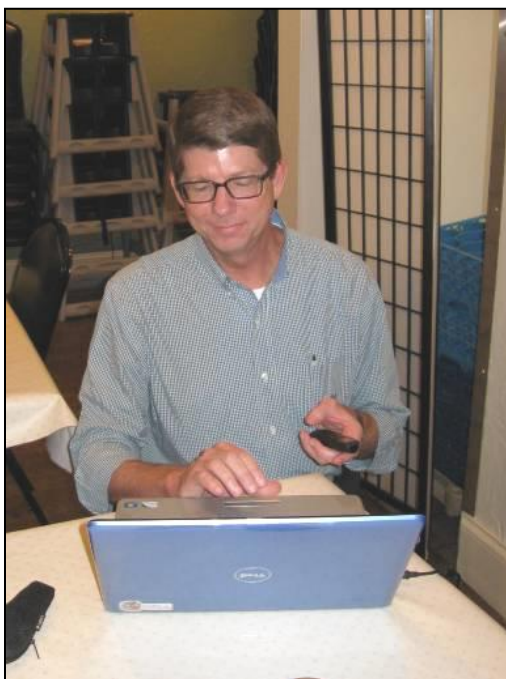
Photos



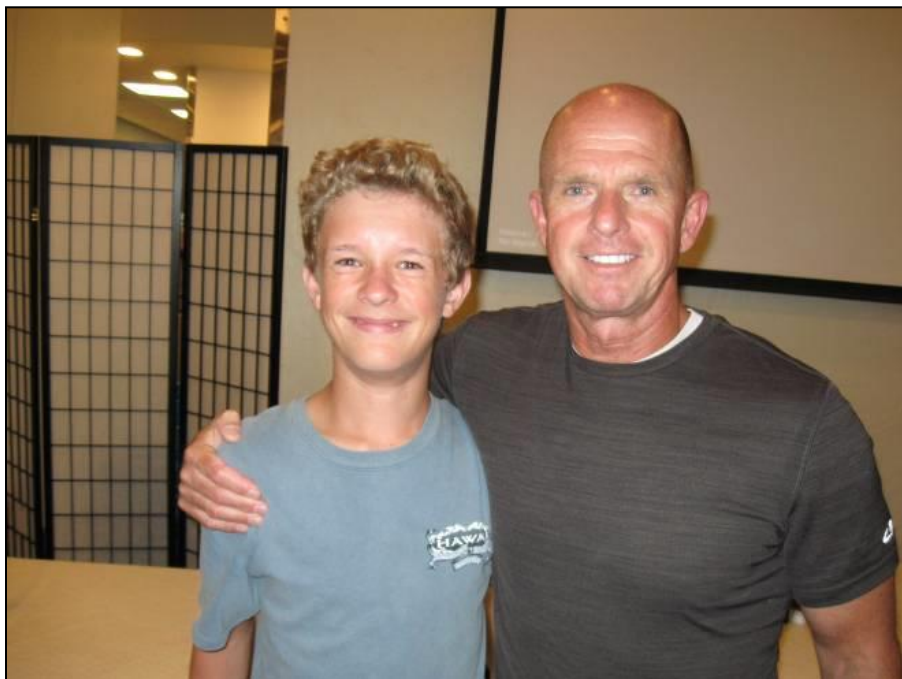
**Our speaker, Mrs. Teri Mitchell,
with the Team's 2nd Place Award
from the Inaugural Greenpower
Indy Race**



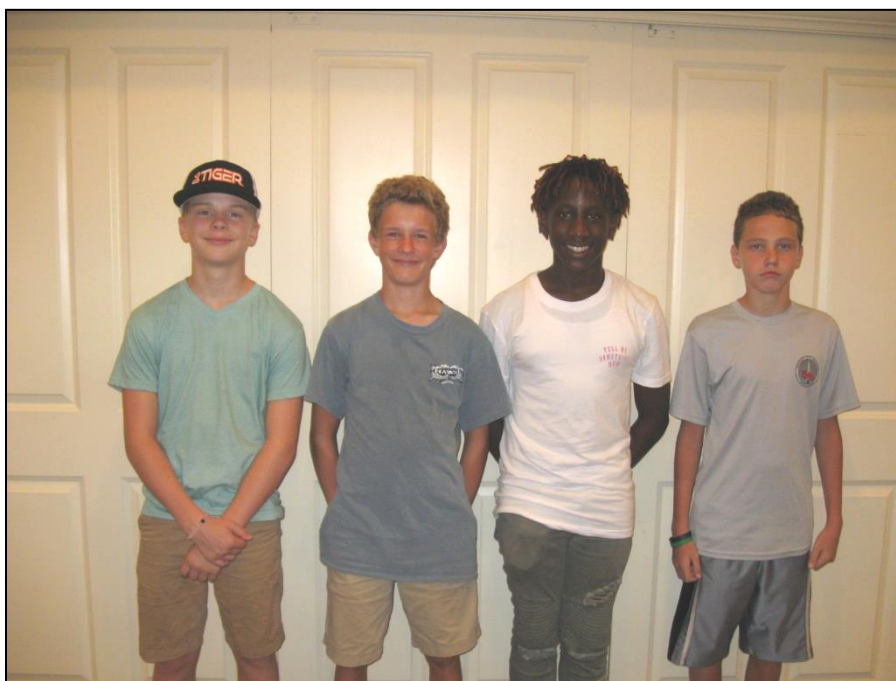
**Annie Sandusky
Guest of Tom Casteel**



Guest Dan Mitchell
(husband of our speaker)



Kaden and Col. Roger McCreery
(Col. McCreery just returned from a tour in
Iraq a month ago)



Four of last year's Challenger Middle School Greenpower Race Team
Matthew Beutjer, Kaden McCreery, Chandler Jones and John Debus

CALENDAR

- 8/17 Thursday 11:45 am Optimist Recreation Center
Business Meeting - Food – (Tom Casteel)
- 8/24 Thursday 11:45 am Optimist Recreation Center
Beth Roberts and Sutton - Therapy Partners
- 9/5 Tuesday 4:00 pm 1st Commercial Bank – Whitesburg Dr.
Board Meeting
- 9/7 Thursday 6:30 pm Cooper House, 405 Randolph Ave SE
Youth Appreciation Banquet
- 9/21 Thursday 11:45 am Optimist Recreation Center
Business Meeting - Food – (Gay Pepper)
- 9/28 Thursday 6:30 pm TBD
Officer Installation and 70th Anniversary Celebration
- 10/3 Tuesday 4:00 pm 1st Commercial Bank – Whitesburg Dr.
Board Meeting
- 10/5 Thursday 6:00 pm Blue Plate Cafe
TBD - TBD



Website: hsvoptimists.org

THE OPTIMIST CREED

Promise Yourself -

To be so strong that nothing can disturb your peace of mind.

To talk health, happiness and prosperity to every person you meet.

To make all your friends feel that there is something in them.

To look at the sunny side of everything and make your optimism come true

To think only of the best, to work only for the best and to expect only the best.

To be just as enthusiastic about the success of others as you are about your own.

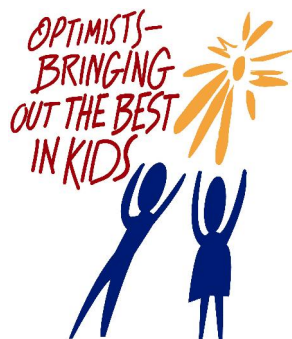
To forget the mistakes of the past and press on to the greater achievements of the future.

To wear a cheerful countenance at all times and give every living creature you meet a smile.

To give so much time to the improvement of yourself that you have no time to criticize others.

To be too large for worry, too noble for anger, too strong for fear, and too happy to permit the presence of trouble.

Optimist International



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PLACE
STAMP
HERE

TO: