

CURRIE'S SPORTSMAN SPOTLIGHT

with special guest Scott "Lucky" Hudson

PEOPLE DO A LOT OF TALKING about the future of drag racing. They wonder who will be involved, how the economy and the environment will affect it, and how popular it will be. But when they talk about this, they often forget about the most important part of the future for racing—the kids!

Oh sure, all those other factors are very important, but the most important question is where are the people of racing going to be coming from when all the old timers are no longer involved? Where are the racers of tomorrow, today?

Well, right now, they are working their way through elementary school. They are in after-school programs, summer camps, YMCAs, and Boys and Girls Clubs of America. Right now they are learning to read and write and multiply and divide, and are at the most impressionable period of their life. And right now is the time that input from drag racing parents and friends can make the biggest difference.

For my part, I am involved with a group called "Racers Who Care." This is a group that reaches out and goes to where the children are. We talk to kids and try to leave a positive impression

at the most important point in their lives.

Racers Who Care sends racers to schools to make presentations directly to the kids. We teach them about teamwork, finding a mentor, and staying focused. We teach them about looking at the long run in life and being flexible with their hopes and dreams. We let kids know there are lots of possibilities in the world of racing; they don't have to be a driver, they can also be a crew chief, or a mechanic, or some other team member, and that each and every person on a team is very important. But we also try to excite and inspire them, to let them know that racing is fun and that the people involved in racing are good people who want to welcome them to the sport.

My favorite part of doing the presentations is the questions kids ask. Most often they want to know about crashing, and going fast, and why we do what we do. We also teach them about the importance of understanding math and computers to be part of the racing world and that they need to do well in school, but we also let them know racing can be like being at Disneyland every day.

We also let them know that sometimes bad stuff happens,



but that's when you have to stay focused and not give up. We teach them that hard work and determination are the stepping stones to success.

I recently spent the weekend at the Grand Prix of Long Beach doing presentations for Racers Who Care. They brought in a few hundred kids, and their parents, and we talked with them and gave them tours of the race cars and pit areas. We showed them just how exciting and fun racing really is as the drivers would talk with them or give short presentations just to let them know about the cars and everything it takes to race them.

Racers Who Care represents all kinds of racing: drag racing, open-wheel, off-road, rallying, road racing; you name it, just about any kind of racing is

interesting to the kids and getting involved with it gives them direction and a goal. It lets them know there is a whole, special world out there that wants them to be a part of it, and if you do get involved it can be a lifetime passion. It offers a positive alternative to gangs, drugs, and trouble with the law, but it is so much more than that. It can be a career, it can be a group of positive friends, and it can be a great lifestyle.

So when people talk about the future of racing, just remember the future is right here. It is down the street in your local school, and it is just waiting to grow up and get involved in racing. So support a group like Racers Who Care and the future of racing will be supported. You can get more info about Racers Who Care at www.RacersWhoCare.org

**Good Luck
Starts with a
Good Rearend!**



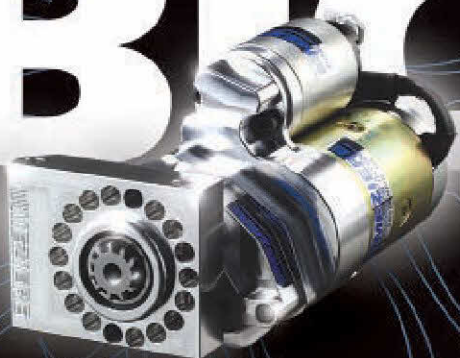
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